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THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 20TH, 2014

What's On Page 14

Children's Choices Pages 18-20

Wales & The Six Nations Page 40

PUPILS' HELP FOR LOCAL CHARIT



Pencoed man on trial for murder

USING a dog lead as a ligature, a man murdered his wife by strangling her in her bedroom, it was alleged at Cardiff Crown Court.

On his own account, 45-year-old Newton said the attack

REPORT by AJ SICLUNA

lasted 30 seconds to a minute, during which time Assia Newton struggled desperately to break the strangle-

The defendant, of Kelvin Heol Las, Pencoed, was he attack described by prosecu-

tor Elwen Evans QC as "violent, volatile man".

His wife, after sepa rating from him, had written in a notebook. One entry read: "You have your freedom - let

The 44-year-old had also written: "You must understand we have nothing in common any more. I will still care for you, but don't think it's love, it's more like a best friend. I don't like being used for your satisfaction."

Newton has pleaded not guilty to a charge of

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 3

Cruelty to chillren WILL STOP.

IT'S GOOD NEWS FOR BRIDGEND...

But it's bad for Llantrisant after hospital review

Report by PHILIP IRWIN

The school is proud to hold its Annual Open Evening for those students who wish to enter the sixth form in September 2014.

the 'welcome pack' by phoning 01656 774100 or e-mailing year12openevening@porthcawlschool.co.uk

PLANS to downgrade A & E services at the Princess of Wales Hospital in Bridgend have been dropped – but Bridgend's gain is Llantrisant's loss.

The South Wales Programme Board met last week to consider a range of options, and set-tled on the one that involved downgrading the Royal Glamorgan A & E at Llantrisant.

A spokesperson for the ABMU Health Board said: "We are delighted that option three, involv-ing the Princess of Wales Hospital, was considered by the programme board as the best way forward; look forward to building even closer alliances and positive working relationships between hospitals across health board boundaries to deliver better and safer services for ABMU patients and other patients patients in south Wales.'
(CONTINUED

ON PAGE 9)

Pupils at St Clare's School, Porthcawl, have raised more £1,000 for the NSPCC, and have also made significant contributions to the Foodbank.

ChildLine 0800 1111

(SEE PAGE 5 FOR THE FULL STORY).

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To be held at 6pm, Wednesday 12th March

Any student or parent interested can obtain more details and

WI members

get insight into Bayeux

tapestry...

Readers' Letters

INIPORTANT! We reserve the right to edit all letters. We do <u>NOT</u> accept anonymous mail. <u>LETTERS AND EMAILS MUST INCLUDE FULL ADDRESS AND A CONTACT TELEPHONE NUMBER. AN EMAIL ADDRESS ALONE IS NOT SUFFICIENT!</u>

We will (in certain circumstances) protect a writer's identity, if requested. Please keep your letters BRIEF and address them to: The Editor, <u>DON JOHN</u>, at Glamorgan GEM Ltd, Graig House, 53 Eastgate, Cowbridge CF71 7E OR email gemeditorial@tindlenews, co.uk

Bridgend buses are a missed opportunity'

UIDE DOGS Cymru and Bridgevis (Bridgend and District Visual Impairment Society) is disappointed that First Cymru has introduced new buses in Bridgend without onboard audio announcements.

First's attitude is in stark contrast to Cardiff Bus. Newport Transport and Arriva in north Wales which have all invested in on-board announcement

technology in the past 16 months.

Buses are a vital means of independent travel for blind and partially-sighted people. In a recent survey published by Guide Dogs, 80 per cent of people with sight loss said they are unable to enjoy the freedom that others take for granted because they

First Cymru replies... at the possibility of installing an RTPI sys-

tem locally it would offer all bus users in the

area a great number of benefits and it would be

the first step in the process of bringing talk-

ing bus/audio technology

the equipment needed to

While it is being rolled out slowly, where

it is happening, it's being done with finan-

cial support and commit-ment of local authorities

and, in England, through

access to things like the

Transport's Better Bus

Area funding scheme.

funding streams are

cent committed to

accessible to our busi-ness in Wales at this

We remain 100 per

improving access to our

services for all people, including those who are

disabled. We have been investing in our driver

training to build better awareness of the issues

our disabled customers

ly have run, in partner-

ship with RNIB and

Guide Dogs, a number

of events designed to

between blind and par-

tially-sighted customers

and our own staff.
We have also recently

launched a Better Journey Card, which

was developed in con-sultation with charities,

and which is intended to

give people who require

help a way of asking for it in a discreet way.

(Managing Director, First Cymru.

Justin Davies.

build understanding

may face, and specifical

Unfortunately, no such

Department for

make audio announce-

ments work on board.

N reply to the above letter, I would like to say that we are aware of the campaign for audio announcements on buses.

We understand the benefits that the technology offers and in parts of England First has been rolling this technology out; however, it's not a universal add-on yet for a number of rea-

Generally, there are audio announcements can be used on buses: on vehicles that travel between two distinct points, for instance a park and ride service where the same vehicles are always used.

This allows us to programme the vehicles to recognise where they are. A local example of this would be the Metro in Swansea which has had audio announcements for five years.

It is also possible to offer audio announcements across entire areas where there is Real Time Bus Information (RTPI) infrastructure supporting the bus network itself.

This is because the buses are tracked by the RTPI system – allowing the system to tell the bus stops how far a vehicle is from them, and simi-larly allows the bus to know where it is, triggering an audio

announcement on board.
At present, there is no
RTPI system in the
Bridgend area, therefore it's not possible for us to add audio announcements to buses in that locality.

The council has

responsibility for all roadside infrastructure, for instance, bus shel-ters, bus lanes and most importantly in relation to this issue, RTPI systems. Should it wish to look

Almost three-quarters (72 per cent) have been at off visiting friends and family, and almost twothirds (65 per cent) have missed out on social occasions like birthday parties.

If you have to rely on the bus driver or fellow

passengers to tell you when you have reached your stop, you are always at risk of being forgotten.

It is frightening and dangerous for a blind or par-tially sighted person to have to get off at a stop that is not familiar, and in an unknown location.

On board audio and visual next stop announce ments also reassure visitors of their location, and are helpful to many vulnerable passengers. We are, therefore at a loss to understand why First Cymru, which has made a very public commitment to improve, the experience of its customers, has not equipped its buses with this technology, which could have done so much to help blind and partially sighted travellers.

As guide dog owner Jon Nixey of Abertillery tweeted on Sunday: "I had my first taste of talking buses in Cardiff yesterday. Absolutely awesome! It made such a difference!"

Sadly, he won't be able to say the same if he vis-

Andrea Gordon. (Engagement manager, Guide Dogs Cymru).

to services in the area. I would add, though Qualifications at this point that even if the RTPI systems were for Maesteg in place, there would still be a considerable cost on the part of the Air Cadets operator(s) to retrofit existing vehicles with

TWO Cadets have completion of a Level 3 ing BTEC qualifica- ject at Bridgend College tions from their and now parades with (Colchester) service at Maesteg) squadron. Tolli member of 631. Squadron, Ăir

four GCSEs, A-C grades) while Cpl Tom Jury has been awarded a BTEC Certificate of Unit Achievement.

This internationally respected qualification mixes theory and practi-cal elements with an emphasis on leadership, teamwork, communica-tions, problem solving and fitness

The syllabus includes professional CV preparation, interviewing techniques, communication, first aid, adventure train-

ing, health and nutrition.

Most of the content is covered by activities undertaken on the Squadron.

Alex is now at university in Colchester completing a degree course in civilian instructor capaci musical theatre following ty. JF

succeeded in obtain- course in the same sub-(Colchester) 631 Squadron. Tom is still a

This is not the only Training Corps.
Sgt Alex Hart has been awarded a BTEC Level 2 the ATC, as last year four Certificate in Public cadets each gained a Services (equivalent to BTEC Certificate in Aviation Studies (equivalent to two GCSEs, A-C

grades).

Flt Lt Davies, the CO of 631 said: "It's very pleasing to see cadets turning their time and experience in the Corps into recognised qualifica tions that will benefit

them in their adult life".
The 631 Squadror meets at Upper Street Maesteg on a Tuesday and Friday evening and welcomes boys and girls aged 13 and over. The squadron

welcomes adults who would like to help. Adults do not need to have previous ATC or RAF experience and car serve in a uniformed or

50s is inviting forums of Shout and the public to its AGM on Monday, March 10 in the Civic Offices, Angel Street, Bridgend, between 2pm and 4pm.

Contact L Bunston (secretary) on 01656

Age Concern offices' facelift

M writing to publicly thank Baker's DIY of Aberkenfig and Mr David Deere of T Elwood Deere & Son Residential Services in Porthcawl for their generosity.

Our Age Concern offices at 24, Victoria Avenue, Porthcawl, had been starting to look quite shabby and rundown, and were in need of a new coat of paint. As a charity, our funds were in short supply and so the fact we have been able to redecorate is all down to the kind donations of Baker's DIY and Mr Deere.
I'd also like to take

this opportunity to thank our volunteer, Jim, who did the painting in his own time.

From our newlyspruced up offices, we offer a range of services to support older people in the Bridgend and District area. On Monday, Tuesday Thursday and Friday we are open from 11am to 2pm and on Wednesday we open from 10am to 4pm.

Appointments must be pre-booked by calling 01656 785910.

We help local older people to claim money they are entitled to receive, and we can even fill in all those forms for

Age Concern Bridgend & District runs a 'Knit & Knatter' group every Wednesday afternoon from 2pm to 4pm, and you don't have to be able to knit or crochet to

volunteers to help us set up a befriending group later in the year

(chairperson, Age Concern Bridgend and District).

THE February meeting of St Nicholas WI began with an inter-

Mabey of Culverhouse Cross tapestry (which was really an embroidery), but an expla-

nation of the historical events depicted. The preparations of William the Conqueror take part. We're also looking for for the invasion of Britain, building the boats in Normandy,

Wendy Brigg,

Schools commit to the 'Big Pedal'

PRIMARY schools across Bridgend county borough are getting on their bikes - to sign up for this year's 'Big Pedal' event, which runs from March 3 - 14.

Organised by cycling charity Sustrans, the initiative will see schools compete for prizes over 10 fun-filled days by encouraging pupils to either scoot or cycle safely to school

The Big Pedal will then reach an actionpacked finale as Friday March 14 will be Superhero Day when youngsters can dress up as their favourite caped crusaders and have the option of raising money

for charity too.

Last year, there were 5,121 car-free journeys made locally during the Big Pedal, including 1,730 bikes, 3,167 scooter journeys and 22 by

Bridgend County Borough Council cabinet member for children and young people said: "The Big Pedal is a really fun way of spreading the message about sustain-able transport, and cycling and scooting are also obviously an excel-lent way for children to

Schools need to regis ter by February 21 and can do so online at http://bigpedal.org.uk/re gister. You can also find out more by calling Roger Dutton on 01656 642502.

Eighteen primary schools in Bridgend county borough have already put the wheels in motion by signing up for this year's challenge, and others are being urged to get involved

too.
Coun Huw David,

stay fit and healthy.
"A lot of children had fun taking part last year and it would be great to see even more schools filling up their bike sheds this year too!"

ing introduction to humour in it, too. It is the Bayeux tapestry; our speaker, Sally remarkabe that it has survived for almost a thousand years. The business meet-WI, brought not just ing followed after a great video of the

esting and entertain-

loading the horses and supplies; one could

almost feel the weight

of a suit of chainmail

armour as it sagged on a pole which took two

en to carry.

The borders of the

270-foot work showed

birds and the horses, in

particular, were drawn

in great style of move-

strange animals and

refreshments. Options for summer outings were discussed, along with opportuni-

ment; the gore of the Battle of 1066 was not

ignored either.

Yet there was

ties to take part in county-organised events. Some members had already booked to join

a walking break in Church Stretton and others decided to join the Glamorgan weekend at Denman College in September.

Members look forward to a Welsh-themed evening for the meeting on March 6 in St Nicholas Church Hall at 7pm and visitors and new members would be

WI members brave the wet weather!

FEBRUARY 11 was Mynydd Cynffig WI's second meeting of 2014 and because of the weather and fact that our church hall roof is still not finished, we must thank the Talbot Institute for allowing us to hold our meeting there.

In spite of the short notice, we had a good turnout of members; our meeting was chaired by president Marjory Goode and minutes and letters of thanks were read by our secretary Enid Rymer.

Forthcoming events and trips were finalised

and the competition Cup for 2013 was won by treasurer Eirwen De Vries.

Our president welcomed guest speaker Sylvia Tilley, whose talk and slide show on Denman College gave us a good insight into what the college has to

A vote of thanks was given by Gill Williams.

The next meeting is on March 11, and (rain allowing) will be in the Pyle and Kenfig church hall. The WI is the largest voluntary women's organisation in the UK. Join us and become part of this great movement.

HIGH TIDE TIMES (UNTIL FEBRUARY 27)

The high tides listed in this week's GEM are those in Porthcawl. It should be remembered that along the coast, high tide times will vary. For instance, in Barry, the high point will be 20 - 25 minutes later

DATE	Time	Ht	Time	Ht
	AM	M	PM	M
20 Thur	09.24	9.3	21.44	9.1
21 Fri	10.02	9.0	22.22	8.7
22 Sat	10.47	8.6	23.13	8.3
23 Sun	11.46	8.1		
24 Mon	00.27	7.9	13.08	7.8
25 Tues	01.59	7.8	14.44	7.9
26 Wed	03.17	8.3	15.53	8.5
27 Thur	04.22	9.1	16.53	9.3
While The GFM makes every effort to check the				

ikes every effort to check the write The GEM makes every effort to check the accuracy of tide tables, we recommend that anyone putting out to sea, or walking in an area where they could be cut off, should check with a tide table specif-

Shout AGM

THE County Shout organisation for the over

746085, for further information.

SOS for Poppy Appeal collectors VOLUNTEER lenge our injured troops

Poppy Appeal collectors are urgently required in the **Bridgend county** borough.

Money raised for the Royal British Legion's Poppy Appeal is used for safeguarding the wel-fare, interest and memory of all those who have served in the Armed Forces and their fami-

From large national projects like funding £8.5m for the Battleback Centre that will provide adventure training and sporting activity to chaland act as a 'recovery accelerator' for them to smaller, more local support like providing rent deposit for the Kent exserviceman suffering from PTSD, who was found living in a tent with his wife - enabling them to reunite with their children and live as a family again.

If you can spare a few hours, please contact Mr Andrew Reekie, Hon Sec, RBL Bridgend branch on 01656 668899; email arandyreekie03@gmail.c

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Man guilty of indecent exposure

A MAN who fantasised about woman, has been sentenced to a twoyear community order at Cardiff Crown Court.

Conrad Flay (43) of Caerau Road, Maesteg, had admitted charges of harassment and indecent exposure.

Judge William Gaskell told him: "Your behaviour has been intolerable."

Prosecutor John Probert said he wrote the John woman a letter, saying he wanted to take her under his wing, could not take his eyes off her, and fantasised.

She described this as

by AJ **SIČLUNA**

touched the woman saying, "You're not wired up, you're not recording me," and begged her not to call the police.

Some weeks later, he was seen carrying out an indecent act upon himself, for which he apologised to her.
The woman told him:

"You are a pervert. Keep

When arrested, he denied such behaviour.

Flay was said to have convictions for offences including arson, causing damage and shoplifting.

His solicitor, Adam Sharp, said Flay had

been in custody since

The offences he said were distasteful, but one of Flay's problems was

In the past, as a result a road accident, he had suffered brain damage and resorted to amphetamine.

The court imposed a restraining order for five years on Flay, banning him from contacting the woman, and going to her

He was also ordered to register as a sex offender for five years and to observe an electronically-tagged curfew 9pm to 6am, and to pay £60 victim surcharge.

Man on trial for murder

FROM PAGE 1)

Ms Evans said that on the evening of Sunday, July 14, the police were called to Ty Bryn Terrace, Pencoed, the home of Mrs Newton, and found her dead on

her bedroom floor.

A dog lead was around her head and had been used as a ligature and pulled very tightly.

There was no issue, said Ms Evans, that Newton killed her, but Newton said he was not guilty of murder and accepted he was guilty to a lesser offence of manslaughter.

The prosecution did not accept that.
"On the facts, he is

guilty of murder. He is trying to escape responsibility for his actions."
The relationships

between the two was Mrs Newton complex. Mrs Newton was born in Cardiff and had three daughters with the defendant. Her first child, from another relationship, died in 2008 and this had a significant effect on her health.

The couple began their relationship in 1988, and married in June 1994.

There was an attitude on his part of volatility and violence, said Ms

There were argu- stant visitor to his wife's

ments, and violence and

aggression by him.
"He was controlling, possessive and manipulative, and there were threats of harm and of self-harm by him. Some incidents were reported to the police, most were

In the past, she alleged, he had tried to strangle her and drown her in the bath.

On one occasion, he threw petrol over the house in Ty Bryn Terrace and tried to burn

In 2005, he set fire to a settee and also had an axe. His explanation to the police was that he was upset because she said she was leaving

In June 2008, said Ms Evans, he tried to stran-gle her. He once pushed her down a flight of stairs, shaved her head and threw a screwdriver at her. She kept photographs of her injuries.

At times, said Ms Evans, he would throw a television set, comput-ers, a microwave and paint, and sometimes threw £10 and £20 notes

on the fire. The couple parted in 2011 and he moved into the garage, and later moved in with a sister.

He remained a con-

Care concerns: clinics launched

CLINICS for patients or relatives with concerns about care, are being launched in the Princess of Wales Hospital, Bridgend, between 5pm and 7.30pm on February 24 and 27 and March 4-5.
The ABMU Health Board says that anyone wish-

ing to attend should make an appointment for a one

to-one meeting with senior staff.
Bookings can either be made on 01656 754194
between 9am and 4.30pm, Monday to Friday, or email ABM.chiefexec@wales.nhs.uk.

home, sometimes going

several times a day.

She kept a notebook and had written in it "Help", saying she wanted to be friends and needed space. She had also written: "You can move on, we can make it official."

She also wrote that thought he would kill her if she met any one else, and she was afraid he would harm himself

Ms Evans said that twice in 2013, she went on holiday to Tunisia and became friendly with a waiter, and indi cated she wanted to move on from her dys-functional relationship She told neighbours she wanted to sell her house and have a divorce.

On July 12, said Ms Evans, they had an argument about her going to Tunisia and he said that if he could not have her back, his life was as

good as over.

On the day of the killing, he told a daughter that he and his wife were not together and she didn't want contact with him. He seemed surprisingly calm, con-tinued Ms Evans. But during the afternoon, he went to the house, took the dog lead from a hook

by the front door, and strangled his wife.

Alleged Ms Evans:

"After the killing, he took considered steps to try to get rid of the evidence. She had bled considerably and he had a shower.

"He threw his shorts which were blood-stained, on a fire as well as two mobile phones."
Ms Evans said it was

not known at what precise time the killing took

The trial is expected to last two weeks.

Cordelia is dancing to success with Ballet Cymru



CONGRATULATIONS go to year-9 pupil Cordelia Wickenden of Brynteg Comprehensive School, who has been cho-Brynteg Cordelia sen to dance for the prestigious 'Ballet

Cordelia started dancing at just 18 months old and took her first examination at two years of age. She is a qualified student teacher in ballet, tap, jazz and acrobatics.

She has appeared with the English Youth Ballet on two occasions in Coppelia in 2010 and Giselle in 2011, and also with the Welsh National Opera in unning Little Vixen.

Now Cordelia has recently been accepted as an associate ballerina with Ballet Cymru and will be erforming with the company later in the year.

Ballet Cymru, based in Newport and a registered charity funded by the Arts Council of Wales, since 1986 has presented a high standard of classical ballet in an original way.

It has grown from strength-to-strength and tours around the UK and consists of ten dancers and two technicians and creates innovative, challenging and original productions.

Cordelia is pictured above for her first costume fitting at the dressmakers in her tutu for her solo routine dance of the Firebird. She won a gold medal in this routine. A bright future surely beckons this talented young dancer.

News from the Sker WI branch

February meeting of Sker WI held recently, it was with much sadness that we heard that one of our members. Betty Griffiths, had died. Betty was a well liked and a respected member.

The darts team have been practising hard for their forthcoming tournament and we wish them luck!

The speaker for the evening was Mr Alan Jones, whose talk on 'Wenglish' was very interesting and amusing Wenglish is a combi-

nation of Welsh and English and has grown over the years, as people have moved into Wales. Mr Jones read a poem to illustrate this.

The dialect varies normously between north and south; old Welsh was spoken in most of Britain and was in use until the 19th cen-

tury. In the next few months there is a charity evening, link meeting and council meeting to look forward to.

The next meeting will be on March 13 at St David's Church Hall, Nottage, when Ms Dawn Lennard will speak on the 'Bird Hospital'

Anyone wishing to ioin us is very welcome.

Ann Vipond

'A TRUE SON OF

passed away on January 29 this year, Porthcawl lost one of its true sons.

Born into a well-established Porthcawl family in Philadelphia Road, John was educated at the National School, Lias Road, and Porthcawl Secondary, under the head-ship of Mr Leonard Higgins.

On leaving school, following in the footsteps of his grandfather and father, Billa, he trained as a carpenter.

As a 17-year-old, while awaiting National Service, he accompanied his father, who was a member of the Porthcawl Coastguard, on the night of the Samtampa Disaster on April 23,

That night left a lasting impression on John that would affect the rest of his life. Both he and his late wife. Audrey became staunch members of Porthcawl Coastguard and John, himself, was later elected chairman of Porthcawl Lifeguards 1968-1987 and

President of the Porthcawl RNLI.

John's keen interest in the town of Porthcawl led him into local politics. Election onto the Porthcawl Urban District Council resulted in John becoming chairman in 1968 and 1974, the last chairman of the old **PUDC**

He continued to serve under the newly formed Ogwr Borough Council until his retirement in 1987.

One of John's proudest moments

was his election as chairman of the local branch of the Royal British Legion from 1987-1996. Both his father and uncle, Thomas David, had been original members of the society which had been formed in Porthcawl

in 1924.

In 1972, John, Audrey and a few onto the different org triends worked hard to establish a museum in the town. The Porthcawl the through the years under the town of Porthcawl.

OBITUARY Thomas John David MBE 1930-2014



John's chairmanship and later presidency, developed into a valuable cen-tre for local history and artifacts. Up to his death, John was still involving himself with the research into the Museum's Centenary exhibition,

Museum's Centenary exhibition, 'Porthcawl and the Great War', open-ing in April this year.

In recognition for all his hard work John received an MBE in 2006. The photograph of he and Audrey at Buckingham Palace took pride of place in his home, next to the photo-graphs of his late son, David, daugh-ter-in-law, Menna and grandchildren, Sarah and Michael. Sarah and Michael

Although John could be very forthright at times, his passion for the town of Porthcawl was never in doubt. A legacy which he has passed onto the different organisations, as they all continue to grow and enrich

David Swidenbank

Rotarians happy to be 'guinea pigs' at college St Valentine's dinner...

EVERY year for the last 25 dance, the preparation, menu choices, years, the Rotary Club of and service have developed from basic bridgend have been the competitive price. Bridgend have been the 'guinea pigs' for the catering Staff and waiters at the event for many years to come.

Bridgend College 'Seasons This year gave us the choices of Restaurant'.

Each year the club's members and partners have supported the event and achieved maximum attendance of forty

This year was no exception, even with adverse weather, the anticipated attendance was achieved.

Many thanks should go to restaurant manager Anthony C Trumper, his assistant Kim Jenkins, Head Chef Neil Hughes and all the students, who prepared the food and the waiting staff who courteously provided an excellent

From the early years of our atten-

competitive price.

We hope to continue this pleasant

starter, main course and dessert with the most popular choices being; *Oven* Baked French Onion Soup topped with Gruyere Cheese, Poached and Roasted Supreme of Chicken Chasseur and Apple and Sultana Flan with Sauce Anglaise and Hazelnut.

The cost of the meal was £13.95 inflated to £16.00 to ensure your partner received a red rose and a small gift.

It was especially nice to see past

member of the club Derek Gavnor and his wife Kim attending, as special guests, in recognition of his continued support of Heronsbridge Disabled Football, organised yearly by Rotarian Edgar Burt. **Roy Hodgkinson**

KRUF EVENTS

THERE will be a KRUF coffee morning in Porthcawl's Atlantic Hotel on Thursday, April 10 at 10.30am and stalls will include bric-a-brac, cakes, tombola and jewellery.

There is the Walk for Life on April 27 starting from the Hi Tide Inn at 11am and a ladies' Ascot day on June 21st also at the Hi Tide.

Thanks to the people of Porthcawl and district in 2013 - KRUF donated iPads worth £2,300 to Morriston Hospital, and £2,300 for a senior social worker for the University's of Wales Hospital chil-dren's dialysis unit. Money is now also being donated for the children's dialysis unit in Cardiff to pur-

chase specialist equipment.

Donations were also received £729 from the Mid Glamorgan Savoyards and £400 from the Porthcawl Christmas swim.

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Tractor Boys' on road again for Welsh charity!

THE Tractor Boys of Aberthin held another run on Sunday, February 16, starting at JG Plant Ltd in Bridgend.

A total of 80 tractors took part in the run, which raised funds for Wales Air Ambulance, Owners came from as far afield as Pembroke and Bristol.

PHOTOGRAPHS by GLYN EVANS

OTHER PICTURES ARE AVAILABLE FROM THIS EVENT.

Pictures can be purchased by contacting:

E-Mail: ffotoimage@tiscali.co.uk Telephone 07791 228684 www.ffotoimage.co.uk















MAESTEG OPTICIANS WILL FUNDRAISE FOR **CANCER HOSPITAL**

SPECSAVERS in Maesteg is giving its backing to a charity that provides care, support and treatment to patients and their families in Wales who are dealing with cancer.

The opticians has

named Velindre Cancer Centre as its national Charity of the Year for 2014. It is the second year running that the store has supported Velindre as an official fundraising partner.

Last year, Specsavers stores across Wales raised £7,000 for

Velindre through a number of in-store events.

The head of fundraising at Velindre, Andrew Morris, said: "We were delighted to work with Specsavers last year and we enjoyed a very beneficial partnership.

"We are looking to increase events and activities this year and together continue to raise even more funds so we can continue to support cancer patients and their families in Wales, as we strive to achieve victory over cancer.'

Specsavers Maesteg director, Nick King, said:

"This year, we're aiming to raise even more money for Velindre, and we're already planning activities to help us achieve that.

Great turnout at latest meeting

DESPITE the bad weather, nearly 50 ladies came to the Wednesday meeting of Newton WI.

Pearl welcomed us and said how much we had enjoyed our lunch in The Fairways. There was quite a crowd, as the Mothers Union ladies were in the same room.

The Vicar was completely outnumbered! We had a good walk in Aberavon and an even better lunch in Remos after. Our next outing is to lunch at the golf cub, then later onto the *Lion King* musical in Cardiff.

Ladies why not join us, you are sure of a welcome. Call Pearl on 01656 772657 or Pat on 01656



RNLI volunteers help flood victims



Pictured are: Jason Dunlop, Penarth; Ian Brandreth, Aberystwyth; Gemma Gill, Aberystwyth; Marc Gibbons, Barry Dock; Paul Eastment, Porthcawl; Sarah Lunn, Angle; Bryn Harrison, Aberystwyth; Chris Vaughan, Mumbles; Matt Fifield, Horton and Port Eynon; Hugh Davies, Barry Dock; Phil Davies, Lifeguard Manager for West Wales.

Business owner's anger at Island's traffic jam

THERE were six-hour traffic jams on Barry Island last Sunday, February 16, a local businessman has claimed.

With blue skies overhead and warm sunshine, thousands of people headed to the

But Mark Vockins, the owner of the Quasar attraction, said many visitors were unaware that there was free car parking

and a traffic jam developed.

He explained: "It was the worst traffic am I can ever remember on the Island. I've never seen anything like it.

"It lasted for six hours, from midday

"There are fewer trains on Sundays and they don't start in the valleys until around midday.

"It means lots of people decide to use their car.

"When they arrive, they don't realise the car parks are free and keep driving round

"You could see them driving round the happened. Pleasure Park two or three times

"I had customers arriving from Porth, Cardiff and locally – they were all saying 'we couldn't find anywhere to park'.

"Some of them parked on Plymouth

Parking is free in the car parks from October 1 until mid-March.

OVERFLOW

Mark pointed out that there needed to be clearer signs on the Island directing people to the three car parks, highlighting the fact

they were free.

He said he had spoken to the highways department of the Vale Council earlier in the week to make these points.

"The car parks were not used to their full capacity; if they had been it would

have eased things a bit.
"Nell's Point was part open, the Old Harbour was open, but the overflow wasn't

He said he planned to get in touch with MP Alun Cairns to inform him of what had Who wants to build what and where?

Stephen Bowen, a highway works man-ager with the Vale Council, said spaces were still available in the Harbour Road car park throughout the day.

"We're aware of some congestion on the Island due to the large amount of visitors, which is usual on a day when the weather is particularly good for the time of year.

'There were spaces in the Harbour Road car park, which is why the overflow car park was not open.

"We were not aware that Nell's Point car park was full, so the additional area was

not opened.

"This car park has never been opened previously during the winter; it is not manned and we did not receive any reports that it was full."

He promised: "For the future we will erect signage to allow the public and local businesses to contact the council to inform us when the car park is near capacity and

Maesteg

Proposed

Demolish existing rear

extension and erect new

rear of Grove Road

detached outbuildings

including change of use

Dr Mathew Morgan - 15

Merthyr Mawr Road,

Bridgend – Extension to

RPS - Parc Stormy.

Bridgend - Screening

opinion for proposed

anaerobic digestion facil-

R R Butler - 36 West

Drive, Porthcawl - New

driveway to front, dormer projection at sec-

ond floor roof level, bal-

Mr Mark Franks Ltd – 37

cony to front.

front and rear.

storm porch to front.

of land to residential.

rear extension.

Mr A Phillips

Bridgend -

Furzebrook,

Mrs

Stormy

ity.

room and extend existing Mr Alun Butler - 8 Rive

- 9 structure to form a new Street,

Directorate - Land at

Parc Derwen, Coity

Construction of new pri-

Miss C Lane – 9 Caldy

Porthcawl

Farmhouse,

workshop to car showroom and

Brynffrwd Close, single storey garage.
Coychurch – Detached BCBC Children's

Davies and Marc Gibbons were met by other RNLI flood rescue volunteers at the RNLI lifeboat station before driving Taunton on Saturday, February 15, as storms continued to batter the UK. Although their base will be in Taunton, they

will travel from there to wherever the floods pose a risk to life. The skills they have learned and practiced to save lives at sea will be put to good use as they help the peo-ple most affected by the extreme weather.
The RNLI Flood

Rescue Team was introduced RNLI's following the involvement with the Mozambique floods of February 2000. A team of eight, with six RNLI inflatable lifeboats were deployed and provided humanitarian aid to some 10,000 people.

Volunteer team member Marc Gibbons said:

"I'm pleased to be able to help flood victims. The skills I have learned as a lifeboat crew member have been useful, but the extra training I have had will help me stay safe in the fast water conditions that we are likely to see during the rescue

Abi Phillips

Guildnews

SINCE my last Porthcawl Townswomen's Guild report, we have been coping with the weather and enjoying our various group activities, the most popular being our monthly lunch, which this time was at Beales Fish Emporium - always a popular venue.

A cinema visit was members.

Our February Guild meeting was held on the worst day of weather so far, but attendance was Down, good considering the conditions - we Guild Brian Haberfield gave a beautiful presentation of his visits to Venice, Madeira and Bruges. He

photographer Audrey are always welcome here. Our next meeting is

our AGM on March 12 Maes y Wern, Pencoed at 2pm, All Saints Loft conversion with Church Hall, hopefully dormer projections to in better weather!

For more information Mr C M Moulton - 42 ring 01656 772157, but sales showroom and kingfisher Road, North before that is our 60th diamond birthday celegarage and alterations to extension to rear and bration!

News in and out of class at St Clare's

IT'S been a busy Barry Dock and eventful half and about in the school I lifeboat statem at St Clare's minibus. Our reception term at St Clare's School in Porthcawl and the inclement wanther was the result of the resu weather dampened spirits.

Pupils from nursery through to sixth form have been taking part in a their wellies!
number of interesting Miss Smi and exciting activities, both inside and outside the classroom.

The theme in the nursery this term was 'nursery rhymes'and the boys and girls have been letting their creative sides get carried away in art lessons.

A mini Chinese restaurant was set up in the nursery so that every-body could try interesting new foods such as prawn crackers and noodles, as part of the project on Chinese New Year. The children also had

great fun re-enacting the race of the 12 animals in PE.

Children in the Prep School have once again demonstrated their generosity by holding a number of fundraising events. As well as donating over 80kg of food to the Bridgend Foodbank appeal, the pupils also raised a total of £1,032 for the NSPCC.

Everyone took part in a sponsored workout in ney t the hall, and the pupils space. have been learning more about ChildLine and the information, NSPCC in specialist school workshops which have 789966

hasn't all the different animals. and it didn't matter at all that it was so muddy because everyone was in

Miss Smith's year-2 class went to Cardiff Castle to learn more about Florence Nightingale and Mary Seacole.

After a workshop in the castle, the class had the chance to try on traditional Victorian costumes and see what life was like all those years ago.

Over in the senior school, members of the sixth form enjoyed their annual trip to Paris. As part of their A-Level studies in French and business studies, the group visited the French capital for some sightseeing and to learn about French culture, and then spent a da Disneyland Paris. day

Rehearsals are now in full swing for this year's senior school musical. Once again, the entire show has been written and put together by our staff and pupils. 'The Milky Way' promises to take audiences on a journey through time and

For tickets and more (01656)

also enjoyed and a small coffee morning was held to get to know new

members are tough! Mr and his wife and fellow

taken place in school. P HIRE LTD Mini Midi Possibly the **Builders** cheapest Skips Maxi in the Vale Tipper Hire **Builders** available Large 🚓 📰 🚐 **Delivered & Collected** Fast & Efficient Service Friendly Staff

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Three Mobile – 3 Store, Llangynwyd, Maesteg – single garage.

17 Caroline Street, Construct section of Mr D S Hart

Bridgend – One part roadway hardstanding Brynffrwd Coychurch – Det

and two part illuminated Miss Karen Morgan – 34 double garage.

Cheltenham Road, Mr Robert Thomas

projecting signs. Cheltenham Road, Mr Robert Thomas –
Dilys Radcliffe – Tir Hir Porthcawl – Attic con-Celynfa, Cefn Road,

LOCAL AM BACKS MARIE CURIE APPEAL



Janice Gregory AM (centre) with Lisa Jones, Senior Nurse SE Wales (at front) and Jeanette Davies, Nurse, Bridgend (back).

LAST week Ogmore Huw

support of the campaign

which calls on the

home.

Irranca-Davies MP wore his

'Cold Homes Week' scarf, in

Government to "take decisive

action" to tackle fuel poverty

With the current headlines high-

lighting the plight of many due to inclement weather conditions, Huw

is keen to stress the importance of

March 2014

and allow people access to

affordable heating for their

Ogmore MP backs

OGMORE AM Janice Gregory has pledged support to Marie Curie Cancer Care, following the official launch of the charitv's 'Great Daffodil Appeal' in Wales.

Janice Gregory joined group of Marie Curie Nurses, community fundraisers and the char-ity's chief executive, Dr Jane Collins, at the Senedd, for an event held to mark the launch of the Appeal across

Wales.
The Great Daffodil Appeal, Marie Curie's flagship annual fundraising campaign, encourages people to donate and wear one of the charity's daffodil pins in

'Cold Homes Week' this Energy Efficiency initiative and bring it to the attention of the public More than 4 times the number of people die as a result of living in

cold homes in the UK than the num ber who die on British roads. The cost of illnesses caused by cold homes to the NHS is around on

billion pounds each year. The aim of the Cold Homes Week "Energy Bill Revolution" is to get the Government to use the money it gets from carbon taxes to ensure warm homes reduce fuel bills whilst cutting carbon emissions at the same

The money raised helps Marie Curie pro-vide free nursing care to people with a terminal illness, in communities across Wales and at the Marie Curie Hospice, Cardiff and the Vale.

Last year a total of 1,000 volunteers helped support the Great Daffodil Appeal by giv-ing up an hour of their time to collect donations from members of the public. Together, they raised more than £238,756. The total raised through Community Fundraising in 2013 was over £1.3m.

Janice Gregory said: "Marie Curie offers con-siderable support to those affected by terminal illness in our area and across the whole of Wales, so I am hugely proud to support them during this year's Great

Daffodil Appeal.
"I would encourage anyone to donate and wear their daffodil pin this March because, aside from the daffodil being a special emblem for the people of Wales the donation given will make an enormous difference to a number of terminally ill patients in need of expert care.

To find out how you can get involved in the Great Daffodil Appeal visit

www.maricurie.org.uk/d affodil, follow @mariecurieuk or call 0845 601 3107.

Newly-weds have plenty of experience to fall back on!

A VALE couple had a very special day last Saturday (February 15) when they were married - after previously enjoying 90 years of marriage to their respective partners.

Jackie Chugg of Llancarfan and Ralph Prole of Barry were married in the Masonic Hall in Guildford Crescent, Cardiff.

Jackie told The GEM: "We didn't think there was any point in waiting around."

Both Jackie and Ralph had enjoyed happy marriages. Jackie was married for 40 years, while Ralph was married for 50.

Sadly, both lost their partners to cancer, and this prompted Jackie and Ralph to pay tribute to Marie Curie and Macmillan Nurses, for the excellent care and treatment that the two

cancer charities gave.
Jackie said: "We
decided that we would ask our guests not to give wedding presents, out to make donation

A total of 60 guests were present for the wedding breakfast in the Masonic Hall, and this was followed by a civil ceremony (with a differnce) and a bless-

Jackie explained: "I walked down the aisle to Abba's 'Lay all your love on me', and then I left the wedding venue to 'Dancing Queen'

Jackie continued the Abba theme by wearing silver – but no platform shoes!

She said: "I'm very grateful to the organist, Lyndon Howells, for adapting the Abba songs for the ceremony. I would also like to thank 12-year-old Harriet Taylor, who played the

harp.
"My thanks also go to the ladies of Llancarfan who provided all the floral decora-

For the evening celebration, a dinner and dance in the same venue, 100 guests arrived to join the

happy couple. A fantastic wedding cake, made by Ralph's daughter Racheal, decorated with cats, rabbits

ABOVE: Signing the register.

and a giant teapot, was the centrepiece of the post wedding celebra-

Ralph and Jackie met again less than two years ago, although they were aware of each other because Jackie used to live opposite Ralph's brother.

Ralph ran a family bakery business, Prole's the Bakers, in Cowbridge Road Cardiff, retiring 20 years ago, while Jackie

ran nursing homes car-ing for elderly people with mental health needs, also in Cardiff.

Both plan to continue their hobbies. Ralph is a keen golfer, and still plays two or three times a wek at Brynhill, while Jackie is an enthusiastic bridge player.

The happy couple are planning to go on a honeymoon trip later this year, with a Caribbean cruise the favoured option!

We're listening – come talk to us

Abertawe Bro Morgannwg University Health Board is launching a series of concerns clinics for patients or relatives with issues about care to meet us face-to-face; and hopefully work with us to make improvements. Executives and senior clinicians will be there to listen and talk through people's concerns. ABM Community Health Council will also be present to offer independent advice on complaints procedures.

The first concerns clinics will be held in the Princess of Wales Hospital in Bridgend between 5pm and 7.30pm on the following

Monday, 24th February 2014, and Thursday, 27th February 2014 Tuesday, 4th March 2014, and Wednesday 5th

If you would like to attend, please contact us to make an appointment. You can telephone (office hours) 01656 754194. Or, email us on ABM.chiefexec@wales.nhs.uk



Rydym yn gwrando - dewch i siarad â ni

Mae Bwrdd Iechyd Prifysgol Abertawe Bro Morgannwg yn Iansio cyfres o glinigau pryderon er mwyn i gleifion neu berthnasau sydd â phroblemau ynglŷn â gofal gwrdd â ni wyneb yn wyneb, a gobeithio gweithio gyda ni i wneud gwelliannau. Bydd gweithredwyr ac uwch glinigwyr yno i wrando ar bryderon pobl a'u trafod. Bydd Cyngor Iechyd Cymuned ABM hefyd yn bresennol i gynnig cyngor annibynnol ar weithdrefnau cwyno.

Bydd y clinigau pryderon cyntaf yn cael eu cynnal yn Ysbyty Tywysoges Cymru ym Mhen-y-bont ar Ogwr rhwng 5pm a 7.30pm ar y dyddiadau canlynol:

Dydd Llun, 24 Chwefror 2014, a Dydd Iau, 27 **Chwefror 2014** Dydd Mawrth, 4 Mawrth 2014, a Dydd Mercher 5 Mawrth 2014

Os hoffech ddod, cysylltwch â ni i drefnu apwyntiad. Gallwch ffonio hefyd (oriau swyddfa) 01656 754194. Neu, anfonwch e-bost ABM.chiefexec@wales.nhs.uk



HUT 9 RE-ENACTORS' IN NEW FUNDRAISER

PHOTOGRAPHS by GLYN EVANS

OTHER PICTURES ARE AVAILABLE FROM THIS EVENT. Pictures can be purchased by contacting:

E-Mail: ffotoimage@tiscali.co.uk Telephone 07791 228684 www.ffotoimage.co.uk

LOCAL re-enactors are keen to help in the preservation of Hut 9, the former World War Two prisoner of war camp located at Island Farm.

Last weekend, they held an event at Tesco Extra in Bridgend to highlight one of the town's most unusual historic legacies. In total £600 was raised.

Hut 9 is all that remains of Camp 198, the scene of an escape attempt by 70 German prisoners in March 1945. It was Britain's biggest wartime prison breakout and was dubbed the German 'The Great Escape'.

















ABOVE: The Red Merles were taken from their mother at the age of just four weeks.

Theft of puppies is 'irresponsible'

A FLEMINGSTON couple were shocked by the irresponsibility of thieves who stole three puppies from their farm a work ago

their farm a week ago.
David Morgan and Catherine
Allen say the puppies were just
four weeks old and far too young
to be separated from their mother.
David told The GEM: "They

David told The GEM: "They were taken overnight on Tuesday, February 11. They were nice and cosy in a shed just five yards from the house.

"It was a night with lots of wind and rain and we didn't hear anything.

"They are sheep dog puppies

that were taken were

and the ones that were taken were Red Merles – a boy and two girls."

There were five dogs in the lit-

David believes the thieves were opportunists who had been

hoping to steal a quad bike.

He and Catherine have reported the theft to the police who have launched an investigation.

Catherine publicised the theft on Facebook and within a few days had 5,000 hits.

David added: "They are only four weeks old and it is irresponsible of them to be taken from their mother. We wonder whether they will survive."

As you can see from the photograph the puppies have distinctive markings. If anyone has any information, they can contact their local police on 101 or Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111.

OFFER ENDS FRIDAY 28TH FEBRUARY



As Wales' Premier Health and Racquets club we will help you find the right fitness regime to get you on track to a fitter and healthier lifestyle in 2014.

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HERITAGE COAST'S LANDSCAPE AND **DEFENCES ARE BATTERED BY STORMS**

Glyn Evans took a trip down to the coastline at Southerdown to see just how much the recent storms and high tides had changed the character of the local landscape.

As you can see, the changes have been considerable with rockfalls and collapsed coastal walls

PHOTOGRAPHS by GLYN EVANS

OTHER PICTURES ARE AVAILABLE FROM THIS EVENT.

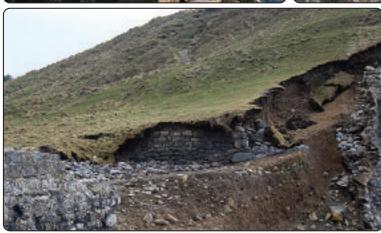
Pictures can be purchased by contacting:

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Bridgend male voice choir's rousing start to concert year

Theatre, Bridgend College Campus, on Saturday, February 15 in aid of St House Trust Bridgend's plans regarding dancing movements on stage to Hafan Gobaith, they had clearly the Newcastle Hill ancient the envy of their senior counterthe Newcastle Hill ancient the envy of their senior counterproperty, which include a parts!

commitment to purchase.

The choir opened with its first performance in 2014 with rousing patriotic pieces, Men of Harlech, Pan Fo'r Nos Yn Hir and Yfori, led by musical director, Rhiannon Williams-Hale and talented accompanist, Stephanie Bailey. The Vocelle Ladies Group,

under gifted musician, Merin Williams, entertained with Dancing Queen and the weather Dancing Queen and the weather appropriate Send Down the Rain. In between, they sang the Kirby Shaw arrangement of Lullaby (Goodnight, My Angel), a beautiful rendition which totally suited

Oldcastle School Choir to a rous-ing reception from the 250 plus Casatchok.

BRIDGEND Male Choir audience and they were worth

taining with We Like Joyful Music, again with two part harmony and

The climax was the unaccompanied African Prayer, which Prayer from Les Miserables, Bring drew huge admiration and Him Home, and Geraint Roberts' applause from all present.

Fresh from accompanying the

The second part started with what is likely to be the opening item when Bridgend Male Choir takes the stage at Llangollen John's Trust thanked everyone for International Music Eisteddfod in attending and confirmed it is July. From Verdi's opera, Ernani, financially better position to con-the Bandit's Chorus was sung in tinue with good work for the town the ladies' voices. its native Italian, before the total and people of Bridgend. To learn Up next were the children from contrast of *Llef* to the tune of Deep more of its work, visit its website Harmony and the Russian themed, www.stjohns-bridgend.org.uk.

The Pontyclun-based ladies of held a concert at Sony waiting for. Vocelle (pronounced VO-KEL)

Theorem Bridgend College Under conductor Ros Harris, returned with Gershwin's they opened with Seek Ye First Someone to Watch Over Me and (the Kingdom of God); then enter-

Ending with Delyth Richards'

The men from BMC returned with the ever popular Jean Valjean rousing Amen. Both senior choirs then came together for Tvdi a children's choir, Rhiannon then Roddaist, which drew huge led her choir through the more applause, not least for the writer's recent popular content of What a best Amen of all! The Welsh Wonderful World; The Rose and National Anthem drew the enter-

Heronsbridge school hosts annual football tournament





Huw Lewis AM kicks off the tournament.

Helping hand for nans and gramps!

T'S Care & Repair week (February 17-21) and we at Care & Repair Cymru, have a simple message for older homeowners up and down Wales if you are worried about living in poor housing, we can

help you. Many thousands of older people face hous-ing-related difficulties every day, ranging from serious disrepair, danger ous electrics and leaking roofs Thousands more can't get around their homes, up and down stairs or use basic facilities, such as toilets and

During the winter months, Government figures show that thousands more are hospitalised, or even die, because they live in cold homes – and are too afraid to turn on the heating, because of the

Last year, we helped almost 30,000 older people with their housing problems. Most of the people we help are aged over 60 and their average age is 75. 10 per cent of the people we help are over 90. Last year, 20 out of our 22

agencies helped people aged 100 years old or

Now more than ever our services are important not only because they help improve people's quality of life, by keeping them safe, warn and independent, but also because they keep them away from places they don't want to be -ambulances, hospitals, GP surgeries and residential care homes.
Telephone 0300 111

3333 local rate, anywhere in Wales to be connected to your local Care & Repair Agency or you can go to
www.careandrepair.org.i k for lots more information about Care & Repair

Chris Jones, Cardiff (chief executive Care & Repair Cymru)

fees and a buffet lunch following

Sponsorship is also sought for raffle/auction prizes, or £50 to sponsor a hole. For entry

the round of golf.

BUDDING footballers from across south Wales have taken part in the annual disability football tournament at Heronsbridge School.

Supported by BCBC's active young people department and Disability Sport Wales, Heronsbridge welcomed teams from special educational needs (SEN) schools to the south Wales SEN schools football festival, sponsored by Bridgend Rotary Club since

This year, a new five-a-side compe tition for 11 to 16-year-olds was added to the tournament on the school's new 3G all-weather pitch, where Education and Skills Minister Huw Lewis AM blew the starting whistle.

The minister then handed over to students from Bridgend College's Pencoed campus' football academy, who are completing a sports leaders

Swansea's Pen y Bryn School shot to the top of the festival's first five-aside competition, while Heronsbridge School took third place.

Success in the traditional 11-a-side competition for pupils aged 16 to 19 was shared by south Wales schools, as Aberdare's Maes Gwyn completed a hat-trick of consecutive wins, while Headlands School from Penarth were the most improved team and Neath's Ysgol Hendre won the fair play award. The home side, representing Heronsbridge School, claimed a win, draw and loss from their three fixtures

Coun Huw David, cabinet member for children and young people, said: "This tournament is always popular with SEN schools from across south Wales and the addition of the five-aside competition on the school's fantastic new all-weather pitch made this year's event a particular spectacle. "I'd like to say well done to all the

children who competed, and give a big thumbs up to the teams from Heronsbridge School for doing such a great job of representing Bridgend county borough."

Hospital review

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)

and the public for taking part in the els from consultant down. These plans engagement and consultation stages will not tackle the fundamental underand sharing their views and ideas, and also our own frontline clinicians who made very valuable contributions to the development of these plans."

Welsh Conservative Regional AM Suzy Davies said: "I'm very pleased that full A&E services are staying at PoW, a recognition of their high quality and the high demand for them.

"Campaigners have argued with passion and good sense why A&E services need to be located in Bridgend. They will be disappointed, therefore, to know that this is a reprieve and not a commitment.

'There remains a future risk still, it seems to me, based on the Welsh NHS's ability to recruit enough A&E clinicians.
"The Community Health Council

longer term future for A&E before they approve these plans." clarification on timeline and costs is now urgently required."

Byron Davies said: "We have We would like to thank patients unfilled hospital doctor posts at all levlying problems that the health service is experiencing in Wales and its inability to attract or retain doctors."

Concerning the downgrading of the Royal Glamorgan Hospital, the Welsh Conservative Shadow Minister for Health, Darren Millar AM, said: "This decision will hit patients hard.

"As a result of budget cuts, the Royal Glamorgan will now see services axed and communities forced to travel further for potentially life-saving treatment.

"Far from ending the long-running uncertainty in south Wales, the decision to axe vital services leaves communities in limbo, with the real threat of more cuts to come.

This option includes a new hospimust ask searching questions about the tal that has not even been built - and

forms/more details, telephone **NEWS IN BRIEF** 01656 749219/745399, or email: kpcyouth@hotmail.com. KPC Youth, the charity for young people, which is based in

Banana bake-off! Pyle, is holding its annual char-THE Sustainable Wales charity is challenging groups to join the ity golf day at the Grove Golf Club near Porthcawl on June Team entry for teams of four is 'Great Banana Bake-Off' and create a delicious banana-based £140 if booked before April 30, £160 per team after. This includes coffee on arrival, golf starter, main or dessert - with the winner of each category

winning a mystery prize!

The event marks Fairtrade Fortnight (February 24 - March 9). The campaign seeks to get a better deal for banana producers in the developing world (UK

banana prices have halved over the last 10 years, while the cost of production doubles).

Deadline for entries is 11am and judging begins at 11.30am on Saturday, March 1, in 'The Green Room Coffee Bar' (above SUSSED, Porthcawl, opposite the

John Street bandstand).
Fellow contributors and the public will help judge throughout the day. Tickets are £3, including refreshments

Contact 01656 783962 or email mm@sustain ablewales.org.uk in advance to register interest.

Residents' relief as housing plan is turned down

RESIDENTS in the Primrose Hill area of Cowbridge have breathed a sigh of relief after a controversial plan for 79 houses was turned down by the Vale Council's planning com-

The companies behind the plan had launched an appeal, based on the fact that no Vale Council planning decision had yet been made on the scheme.

However, when the appeal came before the planning committee last Thursday (February 13) council officers had recommended that it be turned down, and councillors on the planning committee agreed.

The GEM understands that the vote to say no was unanimous.

The plan to build 79 new homes – with about 48 earmarked as affordable housing for rent or purchase had been proposed jointly by the United Welsh Housing Association and Charles Church, a premium building company that is part of the Persimmon Group.

Charles Church intended to build

the 31 homes intended for the open

Local residents formed the 'Gateway to Cowbridge' action group to oppose the plan and its chairman, Kevin Freeland, had this

to say: "Naturally, we are delighted that the entire Vale Council planning committee agreed with the vast majority of townspeople, local councillors and their own officers in indicating they would reject this unwanted and unwarranted greenfield development.

"Given such local opposition, it would be regrettable if the developers tried to impose their wishes on the town via a planning appeal, but we will remain vigilant and will join with the council in opposing any such move.'

However, a statement from United Welsh indicated that Mr Freeland's wish is not going to be

Richard Mann, the director of development at United Welsh, said: "We are both surprised and disappointed by the decision.

"The Vale Council has clearly stated that the need for affordable housing in Cowbridge is now 'critical', and there were no objections to our proposal from the Council's own internal consultees.

"We are in the process of appealing this decision to the Welsh

PHILIP IRWIN

Memories are recalled of the Welsh Arsenal

AT Llanblethian WI's meeting last week, Mr Mike Clubb gave an illustrated and very interesting talk on 'The Welsh Arsenal 1939 -

1945'. He said that the original Arsenal was at Woolwich, but because of the close proximity to London and the heavy bombing, when 100 peo-ple were killed at the factory, it was thought sensible to relocate to a green field site.

In May 1936, the Bridgend site was announced with the main factory to be sited at Waterton.

This was to be the largest factory in Britain during the Second World War, employing over 30,000 people, who came from all corners of Glamorgan, Swansea, Barry, Pontypridd, the Valleys and surrounding areas. There were also three sub-factories.

Two hostels were built at Island Farm, Bridgend and two hous ing estates were also built to house people from London

Two underground tun-nels were built under Brackla Hill, linking to the main factory at Waterton.

Waterton.
A decoy factory was also built near Colwinston. During construction, there were five fatalities. Leisure facilities were provided for the workers and team sports were arranged.

Dances were held in the canteen on a Saturday night and revues were also put on by the various sections

working in the factory.
The workforce was
made up of 25 per cent
male and 75 per cent

female: half came to work by bus and half by train, alighting at Tremains Halt, which carried nine and a half million passengers per

There were 30,000 people employed, with a third working on a shift at a time.
The King and the

Queen Mother paid a visit to the factory to see the production and to meet the workers, who were engaged in danger-ous work; in all 23 peo-

serious injuries, some losing fingers, hands, limbs and eyes from the blasts

In 2009, a plaque was erected in Bridgend, in memory of the brave workers who gave their lives to produce the materials needed to enable the war to be

The next meeting will be on Thursday March 13 at 7.30pm in Llanblethian Church Hall. The speaker will be Gail Roberts, who ple were killed in explosions and probably more than 100 people suffered visitors are welcome.

Step out in the capital for Tenovus!

fundraising that raised Wales' leading can-cer charity in 2013, is returning to the streets of Cardiff.

Registration has opened and the charity is urging people to get their Mark Hudson and BBC Weatherman Brockway set 500 walkers on their way through the night from the Cardiff City Stadium - all walk-ing to raise money to support cancer patients and their families across communities in Wales.

Bethan Palfrey, chal-Tenovus, said: "This to the fundraising to year, our Goodnight for more information."

NIGHT-TIME Walk is back, bigger and walk better than ever with over loads more exciting £40,000 for Tenovus, things planned for our walkers, making sure it's going to be a very, very Goodnight!

"Last year, people took part for all sorts of reasons, walking in memory of a loved one or in celebration of a friend or places before they miss celebration of a friend or out. Last year, Cardiff family member who had City FC club captain been given the all clear.

"This is why our Derek Goodnight Walk is so special; it brings everyone together for the same reason.

Registration is £12 with a discounted rate for groups of four walkers. Enter tenovus.org.uk or call lenge event manager at 029 2076 8860 and speak Tenovus, said: "This to the fundraising team

OBITUARY Norman

Jones (1927 - 2014)

LANGEINOR Hunt stalwart Norman Jones has died after a long illness.

Norman owned many good point-to-pointers over the years and was a keen horseman with a good eye for a horse.
As a young lad, he competed in

gymkhanas and shows with his brother David and with his father William, hunted with the Llangeinor pack.

He had been involved in the horse racing world since the 1950s, and he owned and trained a very good mare called Estelle, which beat the legendary three times champion hurdle winner, Sir Ken, at Warwick in 1955.

Some of the horses he owned, which hunt-racing enthusiasts may recall, were Moonello, Drumman, Matsix, Buckland Boy, King's Euro and, more recently, the grey Silver Story – which was trained by Vale's William Vaughan.

Silver Story won at Cheltenham some 21 years after Matsix had won the United

Hunts Challenge Cup there in 1992. Norman is survived by his devoted wife Berenice of 60 years, his two children Beverley and Jeremy, and four grandchil-

dren, Mia, Rory, Ellis and Lewys.

The funeral is taking place at Trealaw
Church, Trealaw Cemetery, Tonypandy,
today (Friday, February 21) at 1.30pm. Donations in lieu of flowers to the Injured Jockeys' Fund.

BRIAN

Bridgend Lions all set for popular charity book fair

Bridgend Lions Club considered ideas for a new charitable project, they were not to know that they would be embarking on the most successful fundraising books on display. formula in their history.

Held in March 1994, Bridgend YMCA became the venue for the

Rebranded some years ago as ing.

Rebranded Fair the event And what is the result of this the Lions Book Fair, the now takes over the YMCA's large hard work? main hall for three days where thousands of avid readers enjoy browsing the huge number of

Its reputation has spread and the Fair attracts customers from the first Lions' book sale and it was a pretty modest affair using an largest single book event of its

type in Wales.

Stocking and logistics is a huge
While the sale made just a small
profit for the club's charity
account it showed much promise
and suggested a demand for well
presented, quality pre-owned
books, This formed the template
for the future, becoming very successful and eagerly anticipated by
the borough's booklovers, many
of whom subscribed to the club's

type in Wales.
Stocking and logistics is a huge
mother than and the club cannot achieve this with
donate their books, the YMCA
who accept those donations and
books, This formed the template
row for the future, becoming very successful and eagerly anticipated by
the borough's booklovers, many
of whom subscribed to the club's

type in Wales.
Stocking and logistics is a huge
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donate low low come; entry is free and refreshmother and logistics is a huge
mother than and
the club cannot achieve this with
donate low is forcit on, non-fiction, children's and
bargain prices.

For more details about the
Book Fair, other Lions' projects
and membership, go to bridgendlions.org.uk or follow the
club on facebook and twitter.

Henry Trimlett

teer muscle for fetching and carry

In its 20 years, Lions Book events have raised over £145,000, all of which has been returned to the community and benefits many local charities and causes.
The 2014 Lions Book Fair is

Held in March 1994, Bridgend YMCA became the venue for the first Lions' book sale and it was a pretty modest affair using an upstairs room with a limited stock type in Wales.

Stockies and logistics and logistics in a logistic free and refresh-

Ramblers avoid the rain on the Taff trail and the Llynfi Valley

AVOIDING muddy recently in almost paths and surface water at present is nearly impossible but Penarth and District Ramblers leaders have been striving hard to beat the forecasted heavy rainfall and managed two walks

dry weather.

Barrie cancelled a trip to the Brecon Beacons and instead opted for a local walk, tramping along parts of the Taff Trail, Tongwynlais, Castell Coch Whitchurch golf course and back via Forest Farm nature reserve and

the Melingriffith feed-er – to complete a respectable six-mile jaunt without the dread-ed rain, which came in bucket loads later in the

day.
On the following day, Jan and John did experience some showers of rain and hail, but for the majority of the walk in the delightful Llynfi Valley, the group stayed

Making their way to Llangynwyd, that is only a small village but contains two inns, the Corner House and the thatched Old House that

Also, the group learned some of the history of the 12th century church founded and dedcated to the 6th century St Cynwyd, from where the village name origiThe village still cele-brates the Mari Lwyd, which has pre-Christian origins when the horse was viewed as a symbol of power, fertility and prowess on the battlefield.

The name means grey mare and a decorated horse head, covered in a white sheet is carried through the streets from door to door during Christmas time by peo-ple who ask permission to sing and enter the

This is counteracted by the residents and a battle of wits follows if permission to enter is given, the group are rewarded with food and

After climbing to Mynydd Margam by means the Coed Morgannwg Way, the deer they hoped to see hed possibly been fried had possibly been fright ened away by the fact huge logging machines are being used to clear the woodland.

Continuing on past the Bodvoc Stone, also known as the Margam Stone, they returned through the delightful Cwm Sychhant

On February 22, meet at 9am at Cogan Leisure hard walk taking in Pen Cerrig-calch and Table Mountain; contact Robin on 029 2051 4051.

On February 23, meet at 9.30am at Cogan for a six-mile moderate walk taking in the canal and Pontypool Park; contact Jan/John on 01446 418514.

Programmes and membership advice can be obtained from Pam on 029 2025 5102. Joy Strangward

Ruth ioins the Dementia Friends

ALZHEIMER'S Society supporter Ruth, famous for her roles as Nessa in roles as Nessa in Gavin and Stacey and Sky One's Stella joined AMs from across the country, for the launch of Alzheimer's Society's Dementia Friends programme at the Wales Millennium Wales Millennium Centre in Cardiff Bay esterday

y e s t e r d a y (Wednesday). With funding from the Welsh Government, the Alzheimer's Society is running a year-long pilot of its Dementia Friends programme in Wales. Free volunteer-led infor-

all communities, espe-cially where people may not know what support is available. Dementia

wherever they live.

"Being a Dementia
Friend is about being that

NEWS IN BRIEF

CONTACT is a group of members who are elderly, disabled or housebound and meet socially at The Social Club, Hendre Road, Pencoed, from 11.45am to 2pm every Wednesday.

Telephone 01656 860353 for full details.

Rhoose bingo

THE management committee at Rhoose community hall is holding another fundraising bingo afternoon at the hall in Stewart Road on Saturday (February 22) at 2.30pm start. Light refreshments

ADVERTISEMENT FEATURE

Let wisely - and see a specialist!

IT IS surprising how is where an agent com many landlords let pleted legal forms and their properties without having any idea of a landlord (agents do of the law; most are to do this) and were probably unaware unable to deal with a how frequently the how frequently the last-minute law changes and brought by the tenant. how it affects them.

(Newbold we are up to date, and when we leave we are always saying to each other 'how are we going to relay that information, especially when any breaches have serious consequences?"

"It is not just land-

lords who are unaware – dealing with a case last housing law and this puts the solicitor's firm at risk.

erty through an agent, there are no guarantees they will have any more they will have any knowledge on the law.

are in court twice on Thursday in cases where agents have given negli-gent advice to landlords; one is an all-day trial, so if the agent loses, the solicitor's costs alone (£2,400 say). will be over £15,000.

"The case was thrown Catherine Hartland out at court. The insur-lewbold Solicitors) ance does not cover ates: "My team are agents for legal always going on courses, advice/signing legal doc-as we have to make sure uments/attending court (because they have no 'rights of audience'), the landlord had to sue the agents personally." Landlords are natural-

ly worried about paying solicitors (some believe solicitors will cost thousands). most solicitors are. I was However, a landlord need not worry; Newbold week when a solicitor's Solicitors complete docu-firm from north Wales ments for possession called me and they clear- hearings for only £250 ly had no idea about plus vat (excludes the court fee).
With the average rent

being £600 a month is it worth the gamble of try-ing to deal with the matter yourself, or hoping nothing goes wrong via their agent?

If the case is defend-- or worse, thrown out, and you have to start from the beginning – you may have lost six months' rental income

Let your "Another case that we wisely, see a specialist; it are attending next week makes financial sense.



Competition running every week during 2014. Simply answer the question posted

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on Facebook each week.

Inbox us your answer and contact details.

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'Don't leave charging e-cigarettes unattended'

SOUTH Wales Fire were close at hand and who use e-cigarettes guished by on site staff. not to leave these products unattended when charging.

Crews from South Wales Fire and Rescue Service have recently attended two separate fires when the batteries from the e-cigarette have exploded, travelled up to two metres across the room before landing on a these products to reduce carpet and igniting, the risk of this happen-Luckily the occupiers ing".

and Rescue Service the fires were very small warning those and were quickly extin-

Group manager, Phil Pinches, said: "Research has shown that a number of incidents occurred across the UK in recent months and South Wales Fire and Rescue Service encourages users to read the advice given on the safety leaflet provided with

Free volunteer-ted information sessions aim to improve public knowledge of dementia. Ruth Jones whose mother-in-law, Margaret, had dementia said: "I am particularly keen to raise awareness of dementia in all communities espe-

Friends is a great way to get people talking and to ensure that people with dementia can be included

little bit more aware because it's the small things that make a big difference."

To sign up and to find out where your nearest session is, visit dementiafriends.org.uk.

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Welsh rugby international Jonathan Davies - Oil 4 Wales' brand manager

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Working with the community, for the community

Rugby players help launch Oil 4 Wales' new sponsorship...

NDEPENDENT oil distribution company Oil 4
Wales has sponsored a new rally team that is lining up for a season of competition in the Welsh Rally Championship and the Wales Rally GB.

As it looks to expand its presence across Wales, the company, which has depots in Milford Haven, Felinfach, Carmarthen and Cardiff, has signed up to support Spencer Sport for its first competitive season.

The Spencer Sport team has been created by Jamie Jukes, a former Champion National Hunt and Point-to-Point jockey, who has now turned his attentions from four-legs to four-wheels.

Having successfully contested a number of regional rallies during the past two years, Jukes decided to embark on a full season of motorsport in 2014 and set up Spencer Sport as a division of his land management company Spencer ECA, a client of Oil 4 Wales.

Jamie explained: "As a company, we wanted to create something that would enable us to harness the passion, excitement and competitive edge that only sport can provide.

"Sport is in my DNA and, whilst I fully accept that my riding days are now over, I have always had passion for rallying. Added to this, some of Spencer ECA's work takes place in the forests, which has further fuelled my enthusiasm for the sport."

To get the team's campaign off to a flying start, Oil 4 Wales arranged for some of its Brand Ambassadors to attend the launch at Spencer ECA's premises near Llandysul in Ceredigion Jonathan Davies, Ken Owens and Rhys Priestland took time out of training for the Six Nations to officially launch the new team.

Founder of Oil 4 Wales, Colin Owens, said: "Spencer Sport is an exciting new rally team which we're looking forward to supporting. The sponsorship comes at an opportune time for Oil 4 Wales as we look to expand our presence across the country and fulfil our dream and business plan of becoming the oil brand for Wales. It'll be great exposure for us as the Spencer Sport team will be competing at rallies across Wales.

"I'm delighted that our ambassadors Jon, Dan, Ken and Rhys could join us for the launch as like us, they share the same passion for Wales and sport as we do."

Wales and sport as we do."
Wales and British Lions centre,
Jonathan Davies, said: "I enjoy all
sport so it was great to support the
launch of Spencer Sport's rally
team on behalf of Oil 4 Wales.

"I'm naturally a competitive person so it was great to get a taste of what rallying is all about. I wish the team all the best in their first competitive season."

The Spencer Sport rally team is planning a season of competition in its native Wales and will be challenging for the Welsh Clubman's 2WD Forest Rally Championship title. Plus, to round off the campaign, the team will enter the Wales Rally GB in November.

'Help us give young carers a treat' CHARITY APPEALS

ACTION for Children – Gweithredu dros Blant is asking local residents to help give local young carers a break from their responsibilities with donations towards an Easter trip to Longleat Safari Park or Thorpe Park. The charity supports

The charity supports children as young as eight-years-old who may be the sole carer for a loved one with an illness, disability or mental health problem. It is now hoping to raise £2,000 to give two groups of young people in Bridgend the opportunity to visit the muchloved attractions.

Joanne Burgess, a support worker at Bridgend Young Carers, said: "Young carers do such a lot for their relatives by helping to clean, cook and look after younger siblings, but many don't get the chance to go out on day trips like these.

"It would be fantastic to be able to give these young people a day to remember this Easter, by taking them to somewhere they've never been and letting them enjoy their childhood." Action for Children — Gweithredu dros Blant's Bridgend Young Carers service offers young people the opportunity to take a break from their caring role, which many would be unable to do without support. The service also allows young carers to meet others, helping prevent them from feeling iso-

counselling if needed. If you'd like to make a donation towards these trips, contact Nina Rice on 02920 347060 or email nina.rice@actionforchil-

lated, and allows access

to practical support or

dren.org.uk.

LITTER PICK

THIS month's Friends of Barry Beaches litter pick will be on Sunday, February 23 at Whitmore Bay. Volunteers are asked to meet at Marco's Cafe at 3pm. All welcome, but remember to wear appropriate clothing and shoes to meet weather forecast.

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enge for Ty Hafan hree Peaks

RUGBY legend Colin Charvis will be captaining a celebrity heroes team for the GE Aviation Wales Welsh 3 Peaks challenge in aid of Tŷ Hafan.

Now in its 16th year, the event will see participants scaling Snowdon, the highest peak in Wales, before tackling the mighty Cadair Idris and Pen-y-Fan, all within 15

Former Wales captain Colin Charvis will join hundreds of participants for the 20.35 mile challenge taking place on Saturday June 14.

He said: "I'm really excited to be tak-

ing part in the GE Aviation Welsh 3 peaks challenge for Tŷ Hafan. It will be a tough day, but we should put things into perspective and think of the daily challenges these children and their families live through.

To date, more than 5,000 people have travelled from all over the world to undertake the challenge and a total of £1.32m has been raised for Tŷ Hafan, the family

hospice for young lives.

A group of dads of some of the children and young people supported by Tŷ Hafan will be entering teams once again

Matthew Smith's four-year-old son Lewis, suffers from Tuberous Sclerosis and was referred to Tŷ Hafan more than three years ago

Matthew, of Llantwit Fadre, completed last year's event, and explained: "It was a huge challenge but I'm so pleased we did

"It was a great way to show our appreciation for the team at Tŷ Hafan and we'll be continuing with our fundraising efforts for this amazing charity."

GE Aviation Wales has supported the

Welsh 3 Peaks event for the last 16 years The very first challenge was instigated by a group of GE Aviation Wales employees and a few members of the original team

are still involved with the event

On supporting the Welsh 3 Peaks Challenge, Mike Patton, managing director of GE Aviation Wales, said: "We are proud to support the Welsh 3 Peaks chal-

"Tŷ Hafan provides an extremely important service to the local community and the hospice supports hundreds of children and their families all year round

"The challenge attracts people from across Wales and beyond.

"The atmosphere on the day is fantastic, and it is great to see so many people coming together to raise money for such an important and worthwhile cause.

To enter, each team of four plus a designated driver, is asked to pay a £50 registration fee, plus £800 in sponsorship. Register online at www.welsh3peaks.co.uk or call 029 2053 2276 for more informa-



ABOVE: Over 5,000 people have taken on the Welsh 3 Peaks challenge in the last 16 years, raising £1.32million for Ty Hafan.

The GEM is in partnership with the Dog's Trust to find caring homes for animals in their charge at Bridgend Rehoming Centre (Telephone: 01656 725219)



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Meet Colorado

OLORADO is one of our older bovs here, but hasn't been told that! He is a big lad, and full of fun; he loves his toys and he would like a big box full of toys in his new home.

He still loves his walks

and would enjoy living with someone who is reasonably active

Colorado mixes with other dogs, but does keep to himself. He can live with children of 14 years and

over, and this also includes visiting children.

If you can offer Colorado, or any of our lovely dogs a home, call us on 01656 725219, or pop in to Dogs Trust Bridgend. We are open 12pm-4pm every day except Monday.

Supporter Relations Officer, Dogs Trust, Bridgend Linda Feagan

Cloudy2Clear Windows – Service With A Smile!

months for Cloudy2Clear Windows. The company which specialises in repairing windows which are steamed up broken or damaged by replacing the punes - not the frames has grown rapidly as homoewners take advantage of their services.

Branch Missoor Phil Powell feels that it's all about service. 'Our product is simple. If your double: glacing is misted up we con replace the glass at a fraction of the cost of a new window, in any type of frame, and with a new 5 year guarantee. But it's not just about surin people money, although

boacstly feel that during the good times a minority perhaps didn't focus on oustomer care as much as they should have done We make sure we turn an when we say we will. do the job the customer requires and leave their house or class as a whistle often get comments back from customers on how they really dish's expect that sort of service which, in a way, is very sad for. the service industry as a whole."

Cloudy2Clear service the Vale, Bridgesd, RCT and Porthcowl areas and Phil is finding that his

tradespecific have struggled. In his success. The math. guyz to show how much is there it's not just the personal satisfaction that I get from doing a good jab has also it makes good business sense. I facriness from friends and family of penals Fra

a little bit of effort is appreclaved

So, if your windows are steamed up, broken or damaged give Phil a call for a free quotation on 6800 61 21 118 and he'd be happy to help!





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Out and About with The GEN

Miller and Lord construct fine offering in The Lego Movie!

It's not a story that rips up the rule book,

staying close to the tra-ditional 'kids film' mes-

sage that you can be who

you want to be, regard-

less of how society per-

ceives you, an empower

ing message of self-reliance. Yet while this

could have been deliv-

ered ham-fistedly, creat-

ing tonally-jarring experience, here Phil Lord

and Christopher Miller

(who also direct) man-

age to sugar the pill so

that there is never any

feeling you're being spo-

The pair have previ-ous in animation, having

ken down to.

ILMS playthings of my youth aren't all that rare; after all, GI Joe, He-Man and Battleships have all made the leap onto the silver while screen, Scott is Ridley apparently planning to make a Monopoly film.

The next on the list of toys in cinemas comes in The Lego Movie, which sees Emmet (voiced by Chris Pratt), an ordinary Lego figure, mistaken for the 'MasterBuilder' when President Business (Will Ferrell) tries to destroy the world

He finds himself recruited by Wyldstyle (Elizabeth Banks) into a mission to stop Business, but it soon becomes apparent Emmet is in over his head...

There are plenty of reasons to dismiss The Lego Movie out of hand; after all, the above menfrom a toy source have been shining hardly examples of quality cinema, and also just how engaging a story can you generate from what are essentially interlocking pieces of plastic.

So it's a testament to the skills of those involved that the finished product of *The Lego Movie* is easily one the most inventive, laugh-out-loud funny. irreverent and charming films in recent memory; a real triumph of a movie that manages to bridge the generational gap with effortless aplomb.

helmed Cloudy with a Chance of Meatballs, while also handling liveaction direction with 21 premise, that Lego figures live in their own world where they live an almost North Jump Street, and the film Korea-esque life of concaptures both the forformity, is a clever one, mer's knowing wink while capturing the slightly bonkers comedy of the latter, and it's a mix that is wholly satis-

allowing for numerous in-jokes about the nature of playing with Lego and what it means to you. Our window into the world is Emmett, an for whom a chance encounter changes his life.

rying.
Visually the film has a wonderful use of CGI, with some thrilling action set-pieces and some clever sight gags that may feel random but fit incredibly well within the world they've created. It looks incredible. like most animation, the 3D option of



by GARETH **JAMIESON**

Follow Screen Talk on Twitter @GEMScreenTalk

The voice cast is top notch, comprising of some of the finest comedic actors working today. Chris Pratt (who is soon to go stellar with his role in Marvel's Guardians Galaxy) gives Emmett a likeable quality, while Elizabeth Banks, Morgan Freeman and Will Ferrell are all top-

notch support.
Pick of the bunch. however, are Will Arnett, whose Batman tickles the funny bone in so many ways, and Liam Neeson's Good Cop/Bad Cop, creating the finest split personality animation character yet!

It bridges the age gap well, the jokes hitting home for both younger

(CAVC) and Bridgend

and who've been building their blocks for a while, with a humorous nod to the conventions of Lego. especially the more trickier sets and the different types of Lego that perhaps haven't quite caught the public's imagination.

For all its quirkiness it's the strength of the story that really makes for such a magical experience; simplistic but enough of a canvas for the bells and whistles to create such an incredible offering, with a denoue-ment that manages to pull at the heartstrings without becoming overly mawkish - The Lego Movie is an incredibly charming piece of work.

VERDICT - Well

worth a watch, whether you have youngsters or not, The Lego Movie is a magical film - witty, warm and thoroughly charming. It looks amazing, tickles the funny bone in a million ways, and the voice cast are on fine form; you'd be hard-pressed to find a more satisfying cine-

ma trip: Essential viewing. SEE THIS IF YOU LIKED: Cloudy with a Chance of Meatballs (2009), Toy Story (1995)

News from All Saints

ALL Saints Church in Victoria Square, Penarth, is holding a family service on Sunday, February 23 at 10am with worship items suitable for all ages on the theme of 'Don't worry – trust God!' Creche facilities are available and refreshments served afterwards.

All Saints is holding a pancake lunch on Shrove Tuesday, March 4

coffee, and there will also be a raffle and tombola.

The lunch takes place on the gallery in the church, with all proceeds to the church re-ordering fund. Later there is a praise and pancake party, with con-temporary worship music led by the All Saints Worship Group at 6.30pm. All are welcome at both events. For

more information, visit www.allaintspenarth.org.uk.

Quaker sessions

AS part of a series of public events promoting Quakerism, Bridgend Quakers will be holding a series of David Barnes' shop in Cowbridge Pavid Barnes' shop in C workshops.

The next session will be held at Bridgend Quaker Meeting House, 87
Park Street, 7pm to 9pm on February
25. The topic will be Quaker
Testimonies revisited.

Gardening Club

THE next meeting of the Cowbridge Gardening Club will be held on Thursday, February 27 at 7.30pm in the Lesser Hall, when the speaker will be Sheena Crossley talking about containers. New members welcome.

Age Connect
AGE Connect Cardiff and Vale hold a monthly health and diet club at The Senior Health Shop, Holton Road, Barry.

Free advice available. The next session is on Wednesday February 26, 11am to 12 midday.

Contact 01446 732385 or just go along

Big Screen

THE Big Screeen's next film for this season is Le Week-End (cert 15) on Thursday, February 27 at 7.30pm in the Town Hall, Cowbridge.

A British married couple Nick (Jim Broadbent) and Meg (Lindsay Duncan) decide to take a week-end in between 12 and 2pm.

The entry cost of £7.50 for adults and £3 for children includes both ing marriage. Between visits to old savoury and sweet pancakes and tea or restaurant the cracks are revealed.

> Tickets £4 (available in advance from the Town Clerk's office, or on the door)

Choir concert

COWBRIDGE Male Voice Choir is performing a concert on Satuday, March 1 at Holy Cross Church in Church Street, Cowbridge, in aid of the Mayor of Cowbridge's chosen charities - Macmillan Cancer Care

Tickets, £10, are available from David Barnes' shop in Cowbridge and also from Cowbridge Town Hall (opening hours only); from Mr Frank Maynard on 01446 772454; or any member of the choir.

Doors open at 6.30pm and the concert will commence at 7pm. It is the choir's first conert in 2014.

Tax help for elderly

TAXHELP for Older People will hold a free advice surgery at Roz Couzens' Chiropody Surgery, Unit 4, Commercial Street, Llantwit Major CF1 1RB on Monday, March 3 from 10am until midday.

No appointment is necessary. To access the TOP's helpline, telephone 0845 601 3321 or 01308 488066. Home visits can also be arranged via this helpline for people unable to attend the surgery





Our GEM Facebook winner for February 13 is:

Elaine Bowen

who correctly answered last week's question in The GEM. The answer wa February 16th

Our lucky winning reader, chosen at random wins a £25 prize voucher to spend with any advertiser in last week's GEM. Our lucky winner has chosen to spend their

prize with... Boxes and Busts - The Bead Room

The competition runs every week throughout 2014 with a potential prize fund of £1,150.

REMEMBER TO LIKE US AND SHARE ON FACEBOOK: facebook.com/glamorgangem



Big farmland bird count at Amelia Trust

were essential for cate vulnerable and disidentifying as many advantaged people, and birds as possible as has close working relapart of the Game tionships with local furand Conservation Trusts Big Farmland Bird College. Count 2014, held at Amelia Trust Farm Sunday, February 2, when 24 species of birds were identified.

They included fielda snipe, a mistle thrush and a treecreeper.

"We had a good turnout for the event and had a beautiful display from the starlings and field-fares in their hundreds," said Roseanne Hennessy. Care Farm volunteer coordinator (environment).

The charity's working farm, set in 160 acres of countryside, includes 28 acres of woodlands and a variety of habitats.

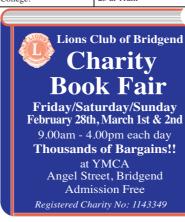
It was established in

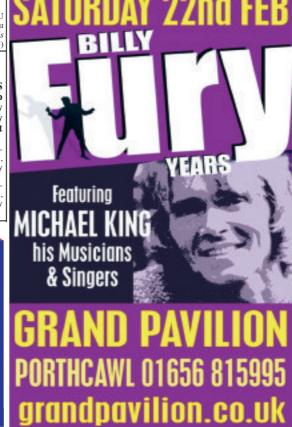
Room. BINOCULARS 1991 to support and edu-6.30pm. 25 at 11am. Wildlife ther education colleges Cardiff and Vale College

PACT **MEETINGS** BUTTRILLS PACT, The Philip John Community Barry Library, March 6 at

Coffee and chat meeting, Blue Anchor Inn, East Aberthaw, February

Coffee and chat meeting. The Red Lion. Bonvilston, on February 25 at 11am





VALE MP's VIEWPOINT

Universal credit will 'benefit' the public

OR too long, too many people have been trapped on benefits and the Government have been working very hard over the last four years to ensure that going to work pays.

The worst consequence of a life on benefits has been depicted (possibly unfairly) by Channel 4's programme Benefits Street.

I have been able to relate to this view from the stories I have been told by constituents. The worst case being one local resident who worked part time

She showed me that by working an extra hour per week, she would end up losing some benefits which will result in them being worse off.

This constituent wanted to do the right thing - go out to work and provide for her family - but felt that the system

Thankfully this is changing with the introduction of Universal Credit.

The benefit system is a very compliated picture and surely everyone should be better off in work.

Under the previous system – that is now changing – when a benefit claimant vants to increase their working hours, the system often works against them.

Universal Credit will help the poorest families, making them on average £163 a month better off. There are 200,000 such people in Wales. Their financial position will improve further the more they work – as it should be.

These changes also come on top of the increase in the personal tax



Vale MP Alun **Cairns** reports to GEM readers

allowance to £10,000 from this April. This means that anyone working full time on the minimum wage will see

their tax bill reduced by two-thirds,

which is a huge saving.
This is the Westminster Government trying to ensure that those who can work, do work and are supported by the tax system.

Unemployment in the Vale has fallen by 27 per cent since May 2010 to a claimant count rate of 3.9 per cent, which means that finding work is get-

ting a little easier.

It is clear that the long term economic plan is having a positive impact here in

The numbers of people who have come off disability benefits have also reduced significantly. It is only right that people with disabilities are support-

ed properly to get back to work. Council taxes in England were also frozen and I was disappointed that the Welsh Government chose not to use the money to do the same here in Wales.

Foodbanks do an excellent job in bringing people back into the state sup-port system. Their three parcel limit is vital to point the people at their lowest ebb to those agencies that can help.

I have asked those who operate food-banks locally to refer their cases to me. I have intervened in delayed benefit payments on several occasions; I want

It is right and proper that the most vulnerable should be protected. We need to protect and support people who cannot work.

The system is changing to establish who needs help to get back to work and who, even with help, will not be able to work

We inherited a broken welfare system where a something for nothing culture had developed among some people. The system must be sensitive but not a

I will be doing all I can to ensure that we provide support to the long-term unemployed in the Vale who in the past have been left behind when there are opportunities, so they get the chance to get into the workplace

Ty Hafan winners

647404, 279188,

474856, 712032

446998, 954029, 364517, 731919,

615221, 858875,

662217, 206315,

813007, 454973

216187, 817962.

100974, 606017,

752835, 568424

850689, 720471.

THE following are winning numbers in the Tv Hafan Crackeriackpot lottery draw number

£2,000: 353325 .£10: 182264, 923919, 384511, 482202, 546450, 203099, 354901, 750974, 597155, 134032 419017 247863, 864447. 697947 473885

744540, 211482 827804 104 789 ● £5: 495374

485740, 144330, 693094, 491796, 672069, 106815, 190224, 602680, 846560, 203470,

394726 648039 248019, 359311, 7 24938, 730625, 185892, 561405, 272230, 421987, 218262 587904, 276894. 299790, 655497, 407476, 816905, 759792, 732920, 661485, 209.

The GEM cannot be held responsible for any errors or omissions contained in the above.

For lottery information please telephone 029 2053 2300.

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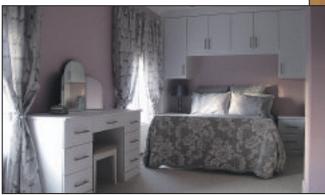
1. 22 POINT HEALTH CHECK on your vehicle for £19.99 inc VAT

2. ANTI-FREEZE CHANGE WITH HEALTH CHECK on your vehicle for £42.00 inc VAT

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Tel: 01656 657526



Vale Resort unveils its 'fairytale venue

HISTORIC Welsh castle is reopening as a wedding venue for the 2014 season, following the first phase of a multi-million pound refurbishment to restore it to its former glory.

Hensol Castle has been closed to the public for almost a decade and only used as a stage set

for the television series Doctor Who, Sherlock and Torchwood. However, thanks to the investment, it will be open as a wedding venue from April, catering for wedding parties of up to 180 guests, who can hire it exclusively.

The revamped venue, which will hold a wedding licence, consists of four ceremony and reception rooms, together with a marquee in the central courtyard.

Located in Hensol Park, next door to the Vale Resort, the 400-year-old castle has original architecture, turrets, gothic towers and feature staircases. The castle's restoration is in keeping with its 17th century heritage in gothic style and all of the conference suites are named after previous famous owners of the castle.

The former stately home, situated six miles outside of Cardiff city centre and three minutes off junction 34 of the M4, is set within landscaped gardens and has a 15-acre lake and serpentine pond.

Paul Beddoe, sales and marketing director of the Vale Resort, said: "Hensol Castle really is a unique place and a must-see for any bride and groom. Not only will they have an idyllic setting to create their picture-perfect day, but they will also be looked after by a team of experts who are experienced in delivering the highest standards of wedding service.

"The investment into the careful restoration and refurbishment at Hensol Castle is something we are very proud of. It's like stepping back in time when you visit the castle. The quaint courtyard is perfect for an intimate drinks reception, and the wooden jetty stretching into our stunning lake is a stand-out spot for some striking photos."

Dating back to the 17th century, the Grade I listed castle's previous owners included Samuel Richardson, who is credited with introducing the threshing machine to agriculture, and Benjamin Hall who oversaw the construction of the Big Ben clock tower in London.

THE VALE OF GLAMORGAN COUNCIL (B4265 GILESTON CROSS TO BURTON HILL) (30MPH SPEED RESTRICTION) (TEMPORARY) ORDER 2014

The Vale of Glamorgan Council in exercise of its powers under Section 14(1) of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 (as amended), and of all other enabling powers intends in not less than seven days from the date of this Notice to make an Order the general effect of which is as described in the schedules below: -

SCHEDULE 1

1. No person shall cause or permit a motor vehicle to travel at a speed greater than 30 mph in the location specified in Schedule 2 below.

SCHEDULE 2

Location The area of the B4265 from its junction at Gileston Cross at grid 301752 167805 to its junction at Burton at grid 303448 167805. A distance of approximately 1800m.

Location The road to Llancadle from its junction with B4265 in a northerly direction at grid 303246 167778 for a distance of approximately 25m.

Location The un-named road adjacent to Four Cross Garage running under the rail line for a distance of approximately 70m in a southerly

In addition, the Order known as "The Vale of Glamorgan Council (B4265 Llantwit Major to Burton Bridge) (40mph and 50mph Speed Restriction) Order 2012", will be suspended in part for the duration of the works.

Reason To allow adjacent highway construction works to be undertaken.

Duration From 06:00Hrs on Friday 28th February 2014, for a maximum period of 18 months, or until such time as the 30mph Traffic Signs are removed, whichever is the sooner.

Dated this 20th day of February 2014.

M. E. Punter, Director of Visible Services & Housing Vale of Glamorgan Council, The Alps, Wenvoe. CF5 6AA.



CYNGOR BRO MORGANNWG 2014 **GORCHYMYN (CYFYNGU CYFLYMDRA I 30** M.Y.A.) (DROS DRO) (B4265 RHWNG CROES **SILSTWN A THYLE'R BRITWN)**

Bydd Cyngor Bro Morgannwg, gan arfer ei bwerau o dan Adran 14(1) Deddf Rheoli Traffig 1984 (ddiwygiedig), a phob pŵer galluogi arall, yn gwneud Gorchymyn ymhen o leiaf saith niwrnod ar ôl dyddiad yr Hysbysiad hwn i'r diben cyffredinol a nodwyd yn yr atodlenni isod:-

ATODLEN 1

1. Ni chaiff unrhyw un yrru na chaniatáu i unrhyw un arall yrru'n gyflymach na 30 milltir yr awr yn y mannau a nodwyd yn Atodlen 2 isod.

ATODLEN 2

Lleoliad Y darn o briffordd B4265 rhwng y gyffordd â Chroes Silstwn wrth gyfeirnod grid 301752 167805 a'r gyffordd wrth ymyl Y Britwn wrth gyfeirnod grid 303448 167805, sef pellter o ryw 1800m.

Lleoliad Y ffordd i Lancadle o'r gyffordd â phriffordd B4265 wrth gyfeirnod grid 303246 167778 ymlaen am oddeutu 25m i gyfeiriad y gogledd.

Lleoliad Y ffordd ddienw wrth ymyl Four Cross Garage sy'n rhedeg o dan y rheilffordd am ryw 70m i gyfeiriad y de.

Yn ogystal â hyn, bydd y Gorchymyn a adwaenir fel "Gorchymyn Cyfyngu ar Gyflymdra (40 m.y.a. a 50 m.y.a.) (B4265 rhwng Llanilltud Fawr a Phont Y Britwn) Cyngor Bro Morgannwg 2012", yn cael ei atal yn rhannol tra bod y gwaith yn cael ei wneud.

Rheswm Er mwyn adeiladu priffordd gerllaw.

Cyfnod O 06:00 ar ddydd Gwener 28 Chwefror 2014 ymlaen, am 18 mis yn unig, ynteu hyd nes i'r holl arwyddion traffig 30 m.y.a. gael eu symud, pa un bynnag a fo'r dyddiad cyntaf.

Dyddiedig 20 Chwefror 2014

Cyfarwyddwr Gwasanaethau Gweladwy a Thai, Cýngor Bro Morgannwg, Canolfan yr Alpau, Gwenfô. CF5 6AA





Roderick (63) wins the Ferris **Entertainment acting scholarship!**

A sixty-three-year old Vale man is one of the winners of the **GEM/Ferris** Entertainment scholar-

ship for 2014. Roderick Mair from Dinas Powys won the male acting award at a masterclass held at the Mount Sorrel Hotel in

Peter Ferris told The GEM: "It was another incredible masterclass day. However, Roderick, and Chelsea from Bryn Hafren Comprehensive School, just had that little some thing extra which won them the scholarships

"We are really excited about the age range because it doesn't matter whether you are 14 or 114, the skills required for screen acting and the TV

"Soaps and dramas have roles for all ages – mums, dads, grandparents and kids.

'Our agency is constantly getting casting requests for what the directors describe as 'traditional grandparents' which means the white haired Werthers Original types or the young-at heart grandparent about to

go on an adventure.
"Our training prepares
students for professional
TV and film work."
ENCOURAGED

The female winner was -year-old Chelsea Sullivan from Barry

Chelsea said: "I was encouraged to go by Carmen Brooks who runs Razzle Dazzle Theatre School on Barry Island



ABOVE: From left to right - Peter Ferris of Ferris Entertainment, Roderick Mair, Nick Benetar, manager of the Mount Sorrel Hotel, and Chelsea Sullivan.

"It was very nerve-wracking at the masterclass, but they were very helpful. I'm used to acting on a stage, but per-forming in front of a cam-

era is different.
"We had to perform a Cowbridge scene from the film Step Mom. It was the one where they are preparing the table for dinner

"After we had finished, Peter plugged the camera into the TV screen and was able to give us

advice.
"When he announced that I was one of the win-ners, I was thrilled."

Peter added: "As long as you can do what is required at the audition and have screen acting experience, then it is your life experience that can get you the role.

'Audition technique and screen acting are what we are great at teaching quickly and we can get people work through our acting

agency.
"With most commercials being filmed in a day and actors being paid from £2,000 to £25,000 for a day's work, some people have found it a

'top up' for their pension!
"We would also like as
ever to thank everyone at the GEM, including Tim Chapman, for all their support with the GEM/Ferris

Entertainment Scholarship as we contin-ue to search out new talent and inspire the com-

munity.
"We would like to to thank every one at the Mount Sorrel Hotel for looking after us so well. An example of films

with people of all ages who were trained at Ferris Entertainment

Masterclasses throughout the UK are available to view at www.ferrisenter tainment.tv.

The next masterclass is on February 22. If you are interested in joining screen and TV acting masterclasses, Peter can be contacted at info@feron 07801 493 133.

WHAT'S ON – IN BRIEF

Energy advice

FREE advice on cutting energy bills is available at the Senior Health Shop, Holton Road, Barry, on Tuesday, February 25 (10am to 12 noon). Contact 01446 732385 or Freephone 0808 808 2244 for more information.

$Rhoose\ talk$

RHOOSE and District History Society are holding another of their monthly meetings on Friday, February 28, at 7.30pm in the lesser hall of Rhoose Community Hall, Stewart Road, Rhoose. This month, we have Joseph Payne, whose topic will be 'The history of the Royal Mint'.

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hen it comes to adding flexible living space to your home, there can be little doubt that an orangery truly offers the wow factor.

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To cut your carbon footprint and ensure that your new orangery is as comfortable at Christmas as it is at Easter, demands the highest possible thermal efficiency.

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When it comes to the roof, we can build slate or tiled roofs, add in a lantern or skylights, or create a full glass roof for a spectacular view of the stars. To make sure that view stays uninterrupted, we can even add in self-cleaning glass.

From the initial design, through to planning to the building, electrics, plumbing and finishing, Securahomeproject manages every aspect to ensure the process is as relaxing and comfortable as the orangery itself.





Ruckleys going from strength to strength...

FTER eight ing, Ruckleys

at the top of Thompson Street opposite Tan y Hvde

As well as the usual prams, cots, clothing, uniform, shoes, christening wear and accessories, they now stock a com-prehensive range of

Ruckleys has years of trad- taken delivery of the much sought-after, pres-tigious range of iCandy are still going from strength to strength. tigious range of reality, and to celebrate, they are offering ten per cent off In July 2013, they all iCandy prams and moved to larger premises, still on Holton Road, weekend, Saturday, Saturday 22, 9am-Sunday, February 5.30pm,

February 23, 11am-3pm Come along and grab yourself a discount by opening a savings plan

with a small deposit You won't be disapbridesmaids, flower girls pointed. Call in to and pageboy outfits – all Ruckleys, 54 Holton at highly competitive Road, Barry, CF63 4HB or call 01446 700006

Exciting venue for girly fun at Sparkle!



▼PARKLE is an exciting new venue for girls, offering parties, make-overs, photographs, and much more.

All little girls love to be pampered and from the moment they step into our enchanting pink salon, they will be in girly heaven.

As parents, we know how stressful children's parties can be but at one of

our Sparkle parties, you can sit back and relax with a coffee while w crimp and curl hair, decorate nails,

and entertain the guests.

Our party packages also include an individual photograph of each party guest and a disco in our sparkly grotto. It's sure to be a party your little girl and all her friends will remember! And to make the party even easier for

Although we have a standard party package, we are happy to discuss any package, we are happy to discuss any alternative arrangements. We also offer more traditional parties and our sparkly grotto and party kitchen are available for hire. If you decide a Sparkle party is not for you, we can provide boys' or girls' pre-filled party bags and food boxes to take away (or be delivered for a small charge). be delivered for a small charge).

So as a special treat, why not come and visit us this half term? We have walk-in appointments available for nail art, hairstyles, and glitter tattoos. You can also book a novelty por-

trait session in our photography stu-dio, or choose from our selection of

girly gifts.

For more information or bookings, contact us on 01446 677060 or email info@sparklellantwitmajor.com

Winter fun arrives at **Camp Coconuts!**

ARENTS needn't worry about keeping their children entertained during the February half term because Camp Coconuts has it all under control!

Coconuts Play and Party Centre in Barry is offering mums and dads a cost-effective way to entertain their children in the school holiday from Monday, February 24 to Friday, February 28.

For just £23 per day, parents can drop off children aged between four and 12 at the play centre. Children will be provided a nutritious start to their day with breakfast, later fol-lowed by lunch, tea and snacks which

are all included in the daily fee.

Over the course of the week, children will enjoy a variety of fun-packed activities including arts and crafts, games, cooking, dance and story time. Camp Coconuts also has its own outdoor play area which is perfect for football, parachute games and den making, and the children have exclusive use of the huge play frame before 10am.

A visit from Mayerick Stables has been arranged so the children can be given lessons on horse riding and grooming. In addition, they will be taken on trips to Barry Island and

Cosmeston Lakes near Penarth to help increase their knowledge of the local area.

"As a mum myself. I can understand the stresses parents face having to organise engaging activities or childcare for their young ones during school holidays," said Abeer Bafaqih owner of Coconuts Play and Party Centre and Daisy Day Nursery.

"Camp Coconuts is the perfect opportunity for parents to drop off their children in a safe environment supervised by a team of fully qualified staff. Even if the weather's bad we have our own base room and activities are planned to ensure the children are always entertained in a great space for them to enjoy a bounty of fun activities.

Camp Coconuts, on Sully Moors Road in Barry, is open throughout the February half term from Monday to Friday from 7.30am to 6.30pm. A one-off £25 registration fee is required. Places are limited to 24 per day, so if you'd like to book a place, call 01446 724940 and ask for Ceri Stokes or email ceri@daisydaynurs ery.com

Camp Coconuts will run during all the school holidays this year, with the exception of the Christmas break.

Helping children focus on a bright new future

significant effect on children's ability to learn and on their behaviour - vet often goes unrecognised by teachers, parents and by children themselves - over a million children will return to school with poor vision.

A free sight test may give every child the ability to see clearly, learn effectively and fulfill their career aspirations.
Up to one million children in the

UK currently have an undetected vision problem. (Statistics provided by the Eyecare Trust and based on DCSF 2009 School Census 0-12 year

Research shows that around 20 per

OOR eyesight can have a cent of school-aged children have an undiagnosed vision problem - that one in five children. (Professor David Thomson, City University, London).

Over 90 per cent of children visit a dentist regularly, while only 53 per cent of children have ever had an eye examination. (Johnson & Johnson, Vision Care Survey 2009).

A total of 84 per cent of parents agree that improved vision would have a positive impact on their child's performance at school. (Johnson & Johnson Vision Care Survey 2009).

At Jones & Jones, proper sight test is free for all children under the age of 16. Why not book an appointment for your children today?

For appointments, call 01446 400015, or visit us online at www.jonesandjones.org.uk.





www.ruckleys.co.uk

ADVERTISEMENT FEATURE

Local Taekwondo School recruiting for 2014

If you are looking for a way to encourage your children to take part in more physical activities, learn self-defence, work on discipline or gain confidence, it is worth considering a Martial Arts School with classes designed for youngsters. We teach in a fun and friendly environment and

offer a specifically designed program to suit different ages and skill levels. The Junior Taekwondo curriculum (6 years +) has been specially designed and adapted for children and will help them develop valuable life skills, raise their fitness levels, teach them self-defence, sport Taekwondo and self-confidence. Classes are run on Mondays and Thursdays at the

Cowbridge Leisure Centre and Tuesdays and Fridays at the Porthcawl Y Centre.

Your Child may have already expressed an interest in Martial Arts and Taekwondo is a fantastic activity for children! We are always excited to get new students and train the next generation of young martial artists so contact us now to book their first FREE introductory lesson or visit our website for mor

Contact Neil on: 07855 487404 or visit neilgimbel-tkd.blogspot.com





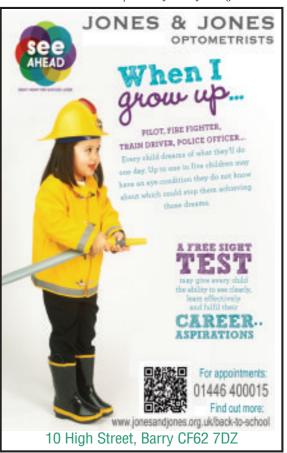
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Tel: 01446 740404

Go to www.nutsaboutfun.com to find out more! Situated off the McDonalds roundabout in Sully/Barry.



ldren's Choi



GEM Reader Competition What's your favourite meal? Fish finger sandwiches? Spaghetti bolognese?

Oscars of Cowbridge are giving one young reader

the chance to have their favourite meal featured on the Oscars Young Ones Menu for lots of other children to enjoy too. One winner will be chosen





The winner and their family will then be invited to Oscars for a meal up to the value of £60.00.

All you have to do is tell us...

What is your favourite meal?

My favourite meal is My name is I am years old. My parent/guardian's name is:

and telephone

Please post to Glamorgan GEM Ltd, Graig House, Eastgate, Cowbridge, CF71 7EL or you can email us your entry at gemsales@tindlenews.co.uk

Closing date for entries is Friday 28th February.

Enthuse children with the many activities on offer!

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Vale and Bridgend there are numerous sports clubs, many featured weekly in The GEM, at which youngsters are welcomed. The people who give up their time to run these clubs are dedicated

to providing good coaching in a friendly environment.

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SEE PAGE 20 FOR MORE IDEAS ON HOW TO OCCUPY YOUR CHILDREN!



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We would like to take this opportunity to thank all our customers for their support and encouragement over the past year, without you we couldn't have done

We have made lots of new friends, both big and small, and look for ward to making more.

Thank you again Find us on Facebook and Twitter - Giggles Barry.

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bedroom house and Garage with Conservatory to the rear. Hallway, Cloakroom, Lounge, Dining Room, Fitted Kitchen/Breakfast room, Family Bathroom, UPVC double glazed windows. Gas central heating. Driveway and large well manicured gardens to front and rear. Ref 728D



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LLANTWIT MAJOR -£124,950

Well presented modern two bedroom mid terrace house situated in a cul-de-sac comprising Hallway, Fitted Kitchen, Lounge with patio doors to rear, new modern Bathroom. Gas central heating. Double glazed win-dows and doors. Parking for two vehicles and low maintenance garden. No chain. Ref 744D



LLANTWIT MAJOR - £127,000

Modern well presented two bedroom mid link house with off road parking sit uated in a cul-de-sac comp Hallway, Fitted Kitchen, Lounge comprising patio doors to rear, Bathroom/WC. Gas central heating. UPVC double glazed windows and doors. Low maintenance garden and allocated parking for two vehicles. Ref 745D



LLANTWIT MAJOR - £189,500

Modern well maintained thre bedroom end of link house an garage. Hallway, Lounge, Fitte Kitchen/Dining Room wit French doors to rear garden, new modern Bathroom/WC. UPVC double glazed windows. Gas fired central Driveway and neatly laid gardens to front and rear. Viewing mended. No Chain. Ref



LLANTWIT MAJOR - £275,000

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Rust shows as Athletic suffer heavy defeat

Bridgend Athletic have put up some creditable performances at home to Premiership clubs Neath and Pontypridd.

They also defeated Cardiff in early January at the Arms Park; howev-er with no rugby for five weeks it was not the best preparation to meet the current leaders of the Premiership, Carmarthen Quins, and so it proved with the Quins running in nine tries and eight conversions in a 61-6 victo-

ry.
The Quins in their prematch report had made it clear they were targeting the Swalec Cup this sea-son after reaching the semi-final stage last year and picked a very strong side with two Wales under-20 and two Wales 7's internationals in their

match day squad.
The Athletic were awarded a penalty in the opening minutes which Steven Lewis converted. He then extended the lead with another.

The Quins then got their act together and tries from Luke Joseph, Ellis Lloyd, Ryan Ellis and Connor Lloyd, and three conversions from Craig Evans opened up a

26-6 half-time lead.
Further second half tries saw Ellis complete his hat-trick and Gareth Thomas, James Harries and Rhys Williams get on the scoresheet: Evans converted all five second half tries.

Team manager Paul Hearne said: "Although it was a rusty performance it was overall a very poor team performance with some individuals putting in substandard

performances particularly in the tackle area.

"A 100 per cent improvement will be required for this week's game against a very pow-erful Tata steel team. "The best players for the Athletic on the day were Aled Thomas and Josh White in the backs and Dan Apsee and Sean Williams worked until the end in the forwards."



Aled Thomas and Griff Davies probe the Quins defence for gaps. PHOTOS BY PETER GILLING



ABOVE: Callum McLeod and Sean Williams on the burst and BELOW: Dan Apsee prepares for atackle.



Hockey Club are downed by leaders

facing a tricky trip time.

After the The Marches 1 divisional

strong Lydney side that, when the teams met before Christmas, ran out 6-1 winners in the Vale of Glamorgan.

Despite knowing that this was likely to be one of the hardest games remaining in the second half of their Davis Wood Hockey League cam-paign, Penarth started paign, Penarth started well, with James Davis, Tom Haran, Sam Docherty and Dave Stevens switching the ball around at the back to create space further upfield.

With the good passing complemented by good running off the ball, the Bears eventually won a short corner, and their efforts were rewarded when Chris Baker's drag flick, having been parried by the Lydney 'keeper, fell to Phil Lane, who reacted well to knock the

reacted well to knock the ball home. Shocked at falling behind, Lydney hit back immediately with a superb reverse stick goal from the top of the 'D', but Penarth refused to be overawed, and went straight back up the other end to restore their lead through a good strike from Sam Wooding. Although the front line

worked tirelessly to find .uk.

With the Second XI Lydney goal, it was the enjoying a weekend home side who scored next pulling the terms off, Penarth Hockey
Club pride was left courtesy of a wellin the hands of the worked penalty corner senior side, albeit routine just before halfbreak.

es 1 divi-leaders

After the oreas,
Lydney upped the pace,
forcing the Penarth midfield of skipper Mark After a home defeat to Cardiff & Met 'C' the previous weekend, travelled travelled to travelled to the previous weekend, the previous weekend to the previous weekend to the previous weekend, the previous weekend to th Cardiff & ...
previous weekend, penarth travelled to Gloucestershire to play a ing game. Their endeavour proved in vain, however, as a freak goal gave Lydney the lead via a cruel deflection off a Penarth player.

Determined to get something from the game, the Vale side pushed forward for an equaliser, but left the back door open and Lydney took full advantage, sneaking in to make it 4-2.

The defeat leaves Penarth in a share of fourth position in their division as they prepare for a visit from third placed Lansdown on Saturday. The Second XI, meanwhile, returns to action with a trip to similarly - placed

Abergavenny.
Penarth Hockey Club always welcomes new, old and returning players, umpires, supporters, friends and helpers regardless of age and ability.

Training takes place on the artificial turf at Barry Sport Centre every Wednesday, with the juniors in action between 6-7pm and seniors between 7-8pm.

Further information can be obtained from club secretary Dave of Wooding, Lane, Stevens via: Arthur Jones and Birch d_stevens81@hotmail.co

Local bridge club results First: Adrian

THE results for **Bridgend Bridgend Bridge Club for** recent events are Wednesday, February 12 -

third: Tony Ratcliff and Simon Richards. Friday February14, the second round of the

Thomas and

Andrew Scott; sec-

ond: Peter Bugden

and Geoff Barnes;

Club Handicap Pairs – First: Liam Sheridan and Adrian Thomas: second: Norma and David Newman; third: John Henson and Terry Dolan

Congratulations to John Henson and Terry Dolan for winning the 2104 Handicap pairs competition.
Lessons for improvers

also take place on a Thursday at 2pm.

To register an interest call either Steve Burgoyne on 01656 661968 or John Evans 01656 880372.

Shield event proves to be a success!



ABOVE: The south Wales' schools 11-a-side

THE south Wales' special up were Ysgol Bryn Castell from schools 11-a-side challenge Shield was a very successful event which was fortunate enough to benefit from dry weather!

The tournament was opened by Huw Lewis, the Minister for Education and Skills, and in the presence of Carwyn Jones, the First

Minister.

Maes Gwyn from Aberdare won the event and Shield and the runners

Bridgend.

The Most Improved award went to

Headlands School Penarth.

The Fair Play Award, which is in memory of Tony Phillips, a past President of Bridgend Rotary, was presented to Ysgol Hendre of Neath.

The Shield and medals were sponsored by Derek Gaynor and every

player was awarded a medal! There were 14 gold medals, 14 sil-There were 14 gold media, ver medals and 80 bronze medals.

Local tae kwon do students in first competition of year



ABOVE: Medal-winning Luke with Menna, Harri, Josh, Sean and the JSTKD team members

ON Sunday, February 9, tae kwon do students from JSTKD Martial Arts and Fitness travelled to Hereford to compete at the South Midlands Open Competition.

The JSTKD team is made up of students from classes around the Vale under the instruction of current tae kwondo Open World Champion, Joseph Schembri.
There were over 500 competitors,

from all over the UK. As this was the first competition on the circuit, everyone was keen to test their skills for the season ahead.

Luke Pownall of the Llantwit Major Club took part in the Boys

black belt division and fought his way to a bronze medal, narrowly missing out on a higher placing This was a great result, as Luke has not competed for some time.

The rest of the team fought hard, showing focus and determination throughout the day but sadly just missed out on more medals this time. Well done to all who took part –

Luke Pownall, Menna Burmingham, Harri Burmingham, Ashton Curnick, Josh Edwards, Sean Edwards, Jake Hayvice, Zac Hayvice, Rhys Doel, Lyne Doel, Simon Morgan and Emily Doogue.

To find out more about JSTKD, visit www.jstkd.co.uk. VW

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Keen competition at bridge club for the Meskin Bowl THE Porthcawl Duplicate social event of the year on

Thursday, February 13. The Meskin Bowl was first presented in 1969 by Yetta Meskin, a prominent Porthcawl bridge player, and has been held annually since, with the proviso that no per son can win it twice, effectively making this the main club handi-

cap trophy.

Alongside this, players compete for the Meskin Trophy – the scratch event – donated in 1989 by Rita Meskin, Yetta's daughter, and also a renowned local player.

Latest results are: Saturday, Second, Sue Anthony and Betty Bridge Club held its main February 1: First, Glyn Williams Longley. and John Beard; second, Liam Sheridan and Tony Haworth.

Monday, February 3: First, Fletcher and Roger Draper: Marian Evans and Trish Saunders; Meskin Cun (scratch) winners second, Tony Haworth and Gary Williams

Thursday, February 6: First, Gary Williams and Pat Haworth; second, Keith Davison and Tony

Saturday, February 8: First, Colin and Hazel Heard; Second,

Roger Plant and Terry Dolan;

Thursday, February 13: Meskin Bowl (handicap), winners: Mary Meskin Cup (scratch), winners Jan Richards and Tony Haworth.

The club meets three times a week, Saturday and Thursday at the Awel-y-Mor centre, and Monday at the Rest Hotel (boardroom),7pm-10.15pm. Visitors welcome at any time.

To contact the club, call our Roger Draper and Connie Dick. To contact the club, call our Monday, February 10: First, secretary, Trish on 01656 785794.

THE PHOENIX WIN AT THE ARMS PARK!



Phoenix win as tempers boil over at Garndiffaith

PENCOED Phoenix under-16s continued their highly impressive run of recent form in a bruising encounter against tough Gwent outfit Garndiffaith.

A scoreless opening 20 minutes was far from uneventful, with both teams engaging in a highly aggressive and often brutal display of tackling and

attacking rugby.
Tempers boiled over when Phoenix fullback Ceryn Williams found herself lucky to remain on the pitch once her red-mist had lifted, after an out of

character bust-up with the opposing scrum half.

The referee deemed a strong talking to and a calming handshake sufficient.

Phoenix also lost promising front rower Carys Baker in the opening period, with a knee injury that a hospital visit confirmed would see her out of action for a number of weeks to come.

Phoenix battled on despite the setbacks and broke the deadlock with a dramatic 60 yard dash from ultra-pacey winger Megan Griffiths, who went under the posts to allow an easy conversion for fly half Megan Whittaker. Another try soon followed from midfield enforcer Caitlin Jones, after good work from openside flanker Ella Roberts.

The game looked over early in the second half when the brooding menace of Phoenix skipper Amy Morgan couldn't be contained from 20 yards out, Whittaker again converting to make the score 19-0.

But to their great credit, the home side hit back almost immediately with two quickfire tries from Shanni Mapp and Chloe Thomas, confirming their pride and desire not to lose on home soil.

The comeback was almost complete when a break down the right left the Phoenix defence in tatters until an incredible match saving tackle from hooker Jade Thomas saved the day.

The game was put to bed late on with Morgan's

second try, courtesy of some advanced soccer skills, which allowed her to score unopposed under the posts to ensure a memorable 26-12 Pencoed Phoenix



SOUTH Scorpions' record appearance holder Bateman Ashlev will be staying with the club for the 2014

season.The 24-year old cen-The 24-year old centre, who has played 81 competitive matches for the club over the last four years, did join local rivals Gloucestershire 4ll to have now periord big. rivals Gloucestershire All Golds over the winter and even played in their friendly against Hull FC Grady.

opted to return to his and Alex Randall.

Wales roots and, after being released by the All Golds this week, is looking forward to the season start-ing on March 2, when the Scorpions take on Oldham Roughyeds at their new home of Maesteg RFC (kick-off

> to have now retained his services for 2014," said Scorpions coach Mike

last month.

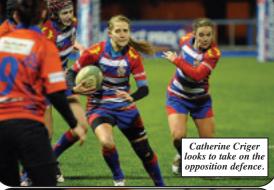
However, the Welsh are Ian Newbury, Scott international has now Britton, Jordan Sheridan,





The Phoenix are denied by a last-gasp tackle.







PRIOR to kick off this game between Pencoed Phoenix and Porth Harlequins, the relative calm inside the Cardiff Arms Park belied the severe weather conditions outside the stadium, evidence of which could be seen with horizontal the smoke coming from the Westgate Street flats chimney stack!

This senior womens friendly match played on the new 4G pitch was a godsend in view of the prevailing weather, and a unique opportunity for the players of both sides.
Phoenix struck in the

opening minutes, young Ospreys second row Charlotte Mundy stealing a Porth lineout to trigger off a Phoenix attack, wing Leanne Burnell breaking to link with Mel Carey who raced away, handing off the last Harlequins defender to score. Porth almost scored

from the restart, their big pack driving over the try line, but Phoenix skipper Lowri Reeves saved her side by holding up the opposition.

Phoenix were getting

the better of the early scrums with props Michaela Excel and Becca Pope, along with hooker Reeves, in the ascendancy.

Phoenix scrum half Sam Trickey then took advantage of another dominant scrum to break out of her 22 to put Carey in space, the centre needing no second invitation to race away from 70 metres to score at the posts, Trickey converted.

Soon afterwards, Phoenix had the Porth



Mel Clay scores under the posts.

for Trickey to break and feed Burnell, who set off on a cross-field run, sidestepping the Harlequins cover to score from 50 metres. Trickey convert- A mazy run from ed and Phoenix led 19-0 Carey put Phoenix back at the end of the first 20minutes, the match being played over three such

experienced Tanya Price for the second session and the combative secand the combative sec-ond row/No8 seemed to galvanise the Porth for-ward effort.

However it was

Phoenix who increased their lead, a full round of passing saw Laura Orgill put her head back to out-flank the Porth defence to score wide out.

Phoenix then

themselves into an unas-sailable lead, moving the ball from a tap penalty for centre Katie Murphy to unselfishly put her wing Hannah Seward away to score in the corner and Phoenix led 29-0 at the end of the second period.

With the Rhondda side ravaged by injuries at this juncture, and Phoenix themselves havthis juncture, and match.

Phoenix themselves having lost the aggressive still looking to develop Natalie O'Shea with a bad injury, Phoenix any interested prospectsportingly gave the tive rugby players should Harlequins three players contact coach Leanne in order for the match to Casley on 07921 312897. continue.

Early in the final peri-od the plucky Porth side,

scrum in further disarray playing only their third game ever, got the score their efforts deserved, Jess Minty crashing over to the delight of her team mates.

on the attack and Nervs Lloyd did well to continue the move, kicking into Periods. the Porth 22, where the Porth introduced the chasing Mundy showed good control to steer the ball over the try line and win the touchdown.

Porth were not finished however, and Price combined with Seward, now wearing Porth colours, and their inter-play saw Price score a converted try at the posts to bring down the curtain on a most entertaining match

GARNDIFFAITH GIRLS 12 PENCOED PHOENIX GIRLS 26 This match arranged at under-16 level saw Pencoed Phoenix continue their winning ways (see report elsewhere on this page).
Hooker Jade Thomas

and wing Megan Griffiths were chosen as Phoenix ladies of the



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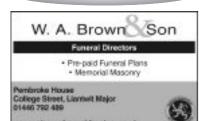
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Family Notices

DARE

Elizabeth May née Collins (Betty)

Peacefully on February 13th after a long illness, Betty aged 84, passed away at Barry Hospital. Betty was a beloved wife to the late Leonard Dare, a devoted and loving mother to Kim and Sharon and son-in-laws Leslie and the late Robin. A wonderful and cherishing nan to Anthony, Donna and Darren, and a great nan to Joshua, Louis and Caitlin, Betty will be greatly missed by all her family and friends

Resting at Park Independent Funeral Directors, 7 Tynewydd Road, Barry until her funeral service on Tuesday, February 25th at the Old Village Church, Cadoxton, Barry at 11am, followed by cremation at 12 noon at Cardiff & Glamorgan Memorial Park, Port Road, Barry. Family flowers only please.

Donations may be made at the service in memory of Betty to George Thomas Hospice.

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Anniversaries

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On 24th February 2014 Lots of love, Gaynor, Neil & family, Sylvia, Gerald & family, xxx

Family Notices

O'ROURKE **Thomas Aidan**

After a long illness, peacefully on February 12th at the Princess of Wales Hospital, Bridgend, Tom, formerly of Lougher Place, St Athan. Loving father grandfather and great grandfather, will be sadly missed by friends and family.

Resting at the Private Funeral Home of W James & Sons, Fonmon. Funeral Thursday February 27th, service and cremation 1.45pm at Coychurch Crematorium, Bridgend. No flowers by request, donations if desired to Prostate Cancer Wales c/o J James, 11 Fonmon Road, Rhoose, CF62 3DZ

BRADSHAW Keith

Rosemarie, Christopher, Allyson, daughter-in-law Cath and grandchildren would like to thank all family, friends, rugby and school colleagues for their kind support and messages of sympathy cards and donations at this sad time and during cards and donations at time sad time and during the long period of Keith's illness. Thanks also to Ward 3, Angelton Clinic for their loving care of Keith. Words cannot express our thanks. Also to Reverend Anthony Beer, Reverend David Bolt and Reverend Penny Williams for their caring support, Penybont services for their professionalism and Bridgend RFC for their catering.

'85 per cent of people are worried about paying heating bil

Madeleine Moon Gap' people affected by fuel poverty.

The campaign, run by the national charity Turn2us, focuses on the growing gap between household incomes and the cost of energy bills - and is highlighting the support available to those who are struggling to pay their energy costs.

The campaign features six steps, using Turn2us, free tools and information to help anyone expe-

riencing these problems.

The steps, available at www.turn2us.org.uk/fuel poverty include checking welfare benefits entitle ment, searching for grants and schemes to help with bills, getting help to improve energy efficiency and checking costs. energy tariffs. Research by the chari-

ty found that a staggering 85 per cent of people

THE Bridgend MP, across Wales are worried about paying their energy has pledged support for the 'Mind the costs last winter, almost campaign two-thirds (64 per cent) which is aiming to suffered stress as a result raise awareness of and over a third (36 per help available for cent) were forced to cut back on food or skip meals.

Alison Taylor, director of Turn2us, said: "With the cost of living steadily increasing, people feel like they have no option but to borrow money and cut back on essentials to cover costs.

"Our research shows that more needs to be done to help raise awareness of the financial support and help available to

manage energy bills.
"With our 'Mind the Gap' campaign we have brought together a number of free Turn2us tools and information, all in one place to help people in financial need imise their income and manage their energy

For more information, www.turn2us.org.uk/fuel

Sully indoor bowls news

WITH the league games finished, the focus at Sully Bowls is on club competitions which are now in full progress.

The senior triples finalists have been decided and the final will be between M Davies, R Richards and D Mason against P Taylor, R Jones and P Critcher, to be played on Saturday, March 29 or

Sunday, March 30. One other competition to produce finalists is the men's rinks which involves two excellent teams of G Cogbill, K Harris, M Clarke and J Greenslade, against G John, J Ackland, P Critcher and C Ackland, to be played on either Saturday, April 5 or Sunday, April 6.

The open triples is at the semi-final stage and the pairs has progressed to the third round with the senior singles and open singles about to ommence. There are some excit-

ng battles due to take place over the coming weeks culminating in the grand finals weekend of bowls over April 5-6.

The Sully juniors played the quarter-finals of the Junior National Fours on Sunday at Newport IBC against a Rhondda Rink and won by 12 shots, 16 - 4

The rink of Joe Coles. Jack Killin, Louis Peters and Rhys Phillips played well as a team with each player contributing with superb bowls during the game

Special mention must go to Jack Killin who, although the most inex-perienced player, showed once again his ability to adjust to new surroundings and a different playing surface to have a very good game.

Sully juniors have also qualified for the triples finals by virtue of a bye and both semifinals and finals of the Triples and Fours will be played at Rhondda IBC on Saturday, March 15 As a reminder, Sully

Stadium is hosting the WIBA National Triples today, Thursday, February 20 at 6pm, and the National Pairs on Sunday, February 23 at 10am

BRIDGE CL

THE results for Cowbridge and District (Llanblethian) Bridge Club for Tuesday, February 18 were as follows:-

1st Dennis Barker and Mary Thomas 63.89% 2nd Mearl Owen and Debbie Rosevar 63 49% 3rd Glenda Roberts and Sara Bartlett 63.10%.



Under-16s feel the Force as they warm up for tour!



LLANTWIT **MAJOR** under-16s are heading for warmer and hopefully drier weather during half term for their much anticipated tour to the Catalan region of Spain. The four day four will see the boys taking on local opposition in two matches Barcelona.

The team have worked incredibly hard fundrais-ing for the tour and have also received superb sup port from many local businesses who have kindly offered sponsorship to the team

was on December 8. They have kept training hard and have particular-ly enjoyed strength and conditioning sessions at Force Strength and Conditioning Llandow.

six adults, who are look-ing forward to the challenges of looking after the boys during the tour. in operation to keep discipline among the boys club and all miscreants will be found guilty despite any attempted defence or actual innocence.

touring party should be team over the next few injury free as they hit seasons.

Spain. The only slight The team would like recent ankle ligament tour possible. pitalit injury but should be able **THE under-16s and** event. to start rehab on the



injury this week.

Touring party: backsTodd Oldfield, Cieran West, Jake Haslett, Charlie Neale, Liam On the pitch, the boys Charlie Neale, Liam have struggled to get fix-Sloan, Joe Bunt (captures due to the recent tain), Owen Jauncey, weather. Their last game Iestyn Jones, Steffen tain), Owen Jauncey, Iestyn Jones, Steffen Godwin. Forwards -Iulian Roswell Callum Stephens, Rhodri Miskin, Jack Phillips, Tyler Lewis, Conor Swift, Rhys Cook, Rhys Jeffrey, Conditioning Llandow. Morgan Thomas, James
The touring party will Cousins, Will Rees, Max
consist of 22 players and Croucher, Cory Campbell.

After the tour, the team will hope to get back into action in Wales Kangaroo courts will be to finish their last season in junior rugby at the

Most of the boys have committed to playing youth rugby next season and will form the basis of The lack of games what promises to be an recently should mean the exciting and strong youth what promises to be an tain James Cousins, who

concern remains key to take this opportunity to say a massive thank No10 and 'points to thank all those who you to Force Strength machine' Iestyn Jones, have helped and support- and Conditioning for who is recovering from a ed them in making the

some guests from Llantwit Netball Club took part in Junior Warfare 2 at Force Strength and Conditioning as a pre tour test of strength and

(photographs above). The competitors faced prowler suicides, which sap the energy from the legs, log lifts, tyre flips and a medlay event company.

and a medley event com James bining power and speed.
s, Max All groups were very
Cory keenly contested. The ladies event was won in some style by Rachel

Riley, who took on and beat girls two years older The lightweight boys was edged by Todd Oldfield, who held on despite a strong challenge from Charlie Neale and the heavyweights was won by man moun beat Callum Stephens to

the title in a tight final race in the Medley.

The team would like pitality in hosting the

TIM JONES

Figaro gives Tim his 500th win

Vaughan chalked-up his 500th winner as a trainer when Figaro won the principal race at . Musselburgh last

The five-vear-old chestnut gelding, who cost 100,000 guineas, won by half-a-length from Roman Flight and was ridden by leading jockey Richard Johnson.

Tim was full of praise for his staff and said: "It is an achieve-ment of which I am incredibly proud and a reflection of a large amount of work from all the team. It was also particularly pleasing to see Richard Johnson on board, as he has been a crucial part of our suc-cess since I started training.
"My congratulations

to Figaro's owners Dave and Jodie Pearn, who have been tremendous

supporters of mine since I started training." Tim, born in Church

Village, Pontypridd, in 1979, has been dubbed 'The Bookie Basher and 'Miracle Worker owing to his success with horses that have failed to score when trained in other yards

His biggest success came in 2011, when he won the Scottish Grand National with the injury-dogged Beshabar

He lists Aintree and Cheltenham as his favourite racecourses. even though he has yet to saddle a winner at the latter. A former Welsh champion point-to-point rider, and a graduate of the Llangeinor Hunt Pony Club, Tim came into racing when his brother William took him point-to-pointing when he was 12 years

Family man Tim has been greatly assisted by his wife Abbi, who trains the point-to-point-ers at Aberthin.

BRIAN LEE

COMMUNITY NEWS TREOES, LLANGAN

TREOES, LLANGAN & ST MARY HILL Your local correspondent is Nancy Davidge, "Tynewydd", Llangan. (01656) 860303

Bus talk THE Young at Heart Club had an informative talk by representative from the GI Bus Company at their meeting

February 13. The proposed service will cover a large area of the Vale from Llantwit Major through 18 villages to Bridgend town

This service will operate between 8.15am 6.15pm; adult single fare £3; return £4. Child single £1.50, return £2.

Welsh concessionary pass holders will still travel free. To request a seat on this service, call freephone 0800 294113 between 0900 – 1300 Monday - Friday.

Big Fill

AT last, something is going to be done regarding the state of the roads, not only in town centres, but hopefully fully village lanes which seem to be neglected.

One local village area 'Parknewydd' oes, which Treoes, become dangerous, with deep potholes becoming filled with water, some times hiding the depth of the holes.

Clear view MY word, what a dif-ference a few weeks have made with the

demolition of all the sheds and glasshouses at the former garden centre in Llangan.

Now that all the trees have been cut down, one has a fantastic view of the surrounding countryside

Rirthday wishes go to Young at Heart Club member Barbara Grigg. poem

penned by a young at Heart Club member: Nancy has a great big

His fur is black as night

She brought him to our meeting

He was an awesome

Some poodle this, he' five feet tall

A standard. she explained,

Then showed us how she clipped his fur He sat there quite well

trained But he didn't like the camera flash,

Growled, as if to say 'no more

Barked loudly at the sweeping brush as we swept fur off the floor.

Yes, Bodie was charge that night, we didn't dare to roam

We all sat still and quiet, till Nancy took him



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THE VALE OF GLAMORGAN COUNCIL CYNGOR BRO MORGANNWG

Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act, 1990 **Town and Country Planning** (Development Management Procedure) (Wales) Order 2012

Development that may affect a Conservation Area/ Datblygu a allai effeithio ar Ardal Gadwraeth

Application No:/ Rhif y cais: Proposal:/Cynnig: Location:/Lleoliad: Conservation Area:/ Ardal Gadwraeth

2014/00092/FUL Court Lodge, Aberthin

Application No:/ Rhif y cais: Proposal:/Cynnig: 2014/00037/FUL

Proposed new dwelling in garden of property on site of existing tennis court The Old Vicarage, Penmark

ocation:/Lleoliad: Conservation Area:/ Ardal Gadwraeth

Application No:/ Rhif y cais:

2014/00055/FUL Proposal:/Cynnig: Location:/Lleoliad: Construction of 12 new dwellings Redwood Close, Boverton, Llantwit Major Conservation Area: Ardal Gadwraeth

Penmark

Application No:/ Rhif y cais: Proposal:/Cynnig:

Location:/Lleoliad:

2014/00149/FUL

Proposals for a rear extension part single and part two storey

1, The Limes, Cowbridge

Conservation Area:/ Ardal Gadwraeth Application No:/

Rhif y cais: Proposal:/Cynnig: 2014/00150/FUL Two storey extension to side (renewal of 2009/00188/FUL)

Cowbridge

Location:/Lleoliad: Waterway Cottage, The Limes, Cowbridge Conservation Area: Ardal Gadwraeth

Listed Building Consent/Caniatâd Adeilad Rhestredig

Application No:/ Rhif y cais: Proposal:/Cynnig:

2014/00094/LBC

2014/00107/LBC

Grade II

Replacing existing windows on the front elevation, with components that are identical in style and section to that of the existing windows. These windows will have double glazed units with black infill strip. 1. The Butts. Cowbridge

Attachment to the structure of an LED programmable lighting system and motion sensors and associated

Location:/Lleoliad: Listed Building:/ Adeilad Rhestredig

Application No:/ Rhif y cais: Proposal:/Cvnnig

Location:/Lleoliad: Eastern Shelter, Eastern Promenade, Barry Island, Listed Building:/ Adeilad Rhestredig Grade II

Application No:/ Rhif y cais: Proposal:/Cynnig: Location:/Lleoliad Listed Building:/

Adeilad Rhestredia

Application No:/ Rhif y cais: Proposal:/Cynnig:

Location:/Lleoliad

Listed Building:/

Application No:/ Rhif y cais: Proposal:/Cynnig:

2014/00109/LBC

Grade II

2014/00138/LBC

External alteration works

29, High Street, Cowbridge

Replacement of rotten timbers to support new natural stone roof tiles Shelter, The Blue Garden, UWC Atlantic College, St

Donats Castle, St Donats

Adeilad Rhestredia

2014/00131/LBC

2014/00131/LBC
Three storey extension to side of the existing building to provide a new kitchen facility, an eight person lift to all floors, eight ensuite bedrooms, two communal day rooms, alter the existing kitchen to provide three disabled accessible WC's on the ground floor, relocation of the existing hair dressing salon, an additional bedroom and two under croft disabled parking spaces. parking spaces College Fields Nursing Home, College Fields Close,

Location:/Lleoliad:

Barry Listed Building:/Adeilad Rhestredig Grade II

Departure from Development Plan /

Gwyro o'r Cynllun Datblygu 2014/00106/FUL

Application No:/Rhif y cais: Proposal:/Cynnig:

Internal alterations and change of use of unit from B8 to D1 non-residential institution
Units 7 and 8, Ty Verlon Industrial Estate, Barry

Details may be inspected for 21 days at the address given below, or via http://vogonline.planning-register.co.uk/

Gall manylion eu harchwilio am 21 diwrnod yn y cyfeiriad a roddir isod, neu drwy http://vogonline.planning-register.co.uk/

Dated / Dyddiedig: 20 February, 2014

Location:/Lleoliad:

M. Goldsworthy Operational Manager Development & Building Control, Vale of Glamorgan Council, Dock Office, Barry. CF63 4RT



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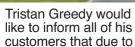
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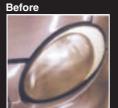
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Cowbridge under-15s are back in action

COWBRIDGE under-15s finally managed to play a game after a nine week lay off due to bad weather and were desperately unlucky to lose a very competitive game against Porthcawl, played in excellent condi-

The visitors had the better of the first half, with their lighter but speedier forwards winning good possession through Otto Guwy at the lineout and turnovers from Duncan Ace and

Owain Jenkins. Excellent running from wing Seán Davies and centre Joe Nott repeatedly put Porthcawl on the back foot and provided Cowbridge with territorial advan

Pressure finally told when Matthew Keating broke through a number of tackles and forced the home side to concede a scrum from which James Holder scored an excel-lent individual try which was converted by outThe second half was more evenly contested penalty kick which was soon followed by a well worked try which was converted to give Porthcawl the lead, 10-7

forced to defend for long periods but astute kicking from Cai Evans relieved the pressure and they proceeded to dominate the final few minutes.

Unfortunately an error in midfield by Cowbridge resulted in an interception by the Porthcawl wing to score underneath the posts; the conversion was successful, leaving Cowbridge with a feeling of frustration over a game they should have won.

Prominent in the Cowbridge pack were Josh Evans, Harry Hopkins and Will Harrison Stevens and

and half way through the period Porthcawl opened their scoring with a

Cowbridge were now

Couzins and in the backs Rhys Beynon were good

league report ON Tuesday, on Tuesday, February 25, February 11, Rosie McCaver, Paul Doubles and Ladies' Doubles knockout competitions begins.

Hare & Hounds)

Tuesday, on Tuesday, February 25, when the road to finals night in the Men's Doubles and Ladies' Doubles knockout competitions begins.

The ladies will be a ladies to the Edward t

Cowbridge

local darts

playing at the Edmondes Arms, the men at the won the Clive Blick Trophy. Farmers Arms or the Llannharry Workings Men's Club, see website for details. The first matches start at 8.30pm After coming from behind to win their semifinal match against Sally McCaver, Rob McCaver and John Izzard (Hare & and spectators are wel-Hounds) 2-1 they beat Linda Smith, Nick Smith come and John Davies (Edmondes C) 3-0 in the

For further informa-tion e-mail Paul at cowbridgedarts@gmail.com, up-to-date information can be found on the web-

All the matches were played at the Old Post, the other losing semi-finalists were Maureen Fleming, Nigel Thomas and Robert Jones s i t e : www.darts.apsn.co.uk. It is time to start thinking about next season! So if a group of you is interested in forming a team (six players minimum) and your local pub is willing to host you, get in touch and register your inter-

PIT

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gemeditorial @tindlenews

final.

(Farmers Arms).
Also on the same evening, a re-scheduled league match was played in which the Old Post

Ladies beat the Star Inn

So the league standings (all teams having now played 12 matches)

are: Llanharry (96 points), Edmondes B (81), Hare and Hounds (57), Cross Inn (55),

Highwayman Inn (49), Old Post Ladies (27),

The Star Inn (20).
The next matches are

(53),

Edmondes C Edmondes A Farmers Arms

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BAD PARKING COSTS MOTORISTS £1BILLION A YEAR

has recently released the results of a report into parking damage to vehicles and their findings indicate that one in 6 drivers, have sustained damage to their vehicles while getting in and out of parking spaces.

They've dubbed the latest trend, where drivers hit either another vehicle or the kerb in an attempt to park, as 'bump-parking' – and it's on the rise.

Head of Churchill Car Insurance, Steve Barrett, further to announce that said: "It could be down

ADVERTISING FEATURE

to a lack of confidence behind the wheel, or it could be that cars have got bigger and roads have become more congested, but for some reason, motorists seem to be struggling with parking their cars.
"So-called 'bump

parking' might seem easier at the time, but if it results in some damage to their car, motorists could end up counting the cost later

The report goes on a fifth of all drivers

avoid parallel parking completely and 17 per cent won't do it in a busy area where they know people will be watching them; 11 per cent don't park in multistorey car parks and 8 per cent don't park when it's dark if they can help

This damage is leading to an average of £328 per repair, and vounger drivers are most likely to be the ones to foot the bill as 26 per cent of them admit to 'bump parking'.

"We've noticed a sharp increase in damag caused by parking. But what a lot of people don't know is that you don't have to remove the entire panel to repair the damage," Paul Jarvis of ChipsAway Cowbridge says

"Our system means that only the area of damage is sprayed, rather than the entire panel. So a ChipsAway repair often works out to be far cheaper than a body shop repair!"

For more information please visit www.chipsaway.co.uk or call 07904

Winner for Tim Vaughan

by Tim Vaughan at Aberthin, easily landed the Andy Don Memorial Beginners' Chase at Fakenham last

Confidently ridden by top jockey Richard Johnson, the eight-year-old gelding trounced the odds on favourite *Spirit Oscar* by 15 lengths.

Brynhill **FEBRUARY 16:**

1st Chris Phillips & Ian Jones 51 points (Back nine = 28), second Mickey Perry & Carl Williams 51 points (Back nine = 26), third Kevin Perry & Martin Rees 50 points (Back 9 = 26, Back six =

Number of competitors - 35 pairs, disqualifications:- Lee Price & Joey Brookman, no indication of handicap on scorecard.

Rob has his eyes on the prize!

skier from Barry has received sponsorship for a second year running from a local opticians.

Rob Taylor (29) has been provided with a year's supply of free contact lenses by the pecsavers store on Holton Road.

Rob, who had hoped to compete in the 2014 Winter Olympics in

Sochi, Russia, has had to return home to Barry after suffering a knee injury on the circuit.

Rob, however, is no stranger to returning from injury. In 2009 he suffered an anterior cruciate ligament injury in his right knee and a broken shoulder, which kept him out of the spor for two years, but he recovered and went on to represent Great Britain at the 2011 World Cup in the USA

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53 TOYOTA Yaris 1.0 VVT-i T3, 5-Dr. Met Green, Low Insurance Group, Low Miles, CD Player, E/Windows, C/Locking



56 PEUGEOT 207 1.4 16v Sport, 3-Dr. Met Black, CD Player, Alloys, Air Con, E/Windows, C/Locking, 68k.

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- SMART FourTwo Passion. In black/silver with stop/start, 13,000 miles, 1 owner £4,995 FORD Fiesta 1.4 Diesel Zetec Climate 5-Dr. In met blue, 39,000 miles, £30 road tax CITROEN C1 1.0 Code 5-Dr. In black, 35,000 miles,
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Wales and the Six Nations



AS FANS PREPARE FOR A LONG DAY'S JOURNEY INTO NIGHT...

Gatland's young guns can fire again and heal the hurt against France

BACK PAGE COMMENT by Don John



FLASHBACK

to last year's gritty 16-6 victory in Paris and what all Welsh fans will want to see repeated tomorrow evening...tries... followed by a celebration in Cardiff! (Pictures by Huw Evans Agency)



ITH the scars still not healed from the battering they received to both body and pride in a storm-swept Dublin two weeks ago, Wales go into their make or break triple championship clash with unbeaten France tomorrow evening, knowing that even their own Millennium Stadium will be no easy place to make amends for their below-par display against the Irish.

The game kicks off at the ridiculous hour of 8pm, which may be socially acceptable for those fortunate enough to be living within a 10-mile radius of Cardiff, but hardly takes account of the equally fervent mass of Welsh supporters who have to travel in from much further afield – from the fastnesses of west and north Wales – and could then face a long journey home into the small hours.

Call me old fashioned, but... this column has long bemoaned the increasing tendency in the professional age for rugby's bigwigs to place TV media schedules before the interests of their legions of paying customers – ie the loyal fans — who nowadays are subjected to a bewildering hotch-potch of start times, dictated more by the commercial needs of broadcasters than those of the consumer.

Late night Friday kick-offs are a case in point, with Wales suffering more than most in the Six Nations fixture list.

Indeed, next year they will be entertaining England at a later time again of 8.05pm, on

Friday, February 6, 2015. (It will be very interesting to see how many English fans are prepared to tolerate a long day's journey into night back down the M4, with an overnight stay in Cardiff their only other option).

Meanwhile, it is the French who again provide the late night Friday opposition for a Welsh camp desperate to prove that their uncharacteristic collapse against Ireland was simply a bad day at the office – rather than an ominous sign, as some pundits have prematurely suggested, that the success bubble has burst and that they have finally been 'found out'on the international scene.

Injuries have not helped the cause and head coach Warren Gatland, already concerned about the lack of match fitness of other key players, which was exposed in the 26-3 defeat in Dublin, delayed the announcement of his team until yesterday (Wednesday), for a final check on the walking wounded.

The whole camp know, as giant wing George North has acknowledged, that a huge collective improvement will be required to get their championship defence back on track, against a resurgent French side that may not yet have struck top form, but still have two Six Nations scalps hanging on their belt to Wales' one.

"We felt massively disappointed with the

team's performance in Ireland, but we have to react. We proved (in winning the championship) last year, that despite losing one game, all is not lost," North said.

"We must remember that we have lost only two out of 12 matches in the Six Nations so far," he pointed out.

However, the challenge is formidable: last year's wooden spoonists have an impressive record against Wales on both sides of the channel, winning 11 out of 16 meetings since 2000 (including, of course, that highly contentious semi-final in the 2011 Rugby World Cup, when 14-man Wales fell to an agonizing one-point defeat (9-8) after skipper Sam Warburton received a debatable red card.

Instead, it was fortunate France who squeezed into the final showdown with the eventual winners, New Zealand, while Gatland's men, who had been hailed as the form team of the series, were left to rue a rare opportunity missed.

Wales can be encouraged by the fact that they have recorded convincing wins over the French in the three Grand Slam years – 2005, 2008, 2012; also the notoriously unpredictable French are not usually good travellers and have now lost six out of seven times on the road.

Moreover, a miserable cold February night in Cardiff may not be to Gallic taste, particularly if the Millennium Stadium faith-

ful can create anything like the hostile atmosphere that galvanised the Welsh team and transfixed England less than a year ago.

Like the players, Gatland and his assistant coaches will be keen to prove a point or two to critics (not this one!) who have questioned whether the rugby pendulum has begun to swing away from Wales.

Tomorrow night's occasion presents a unique competitivity to set the record

Tomorrow night's occasion presents a unique opportunity to set the record straight – in more ways than one – and there is no reason why this still young Wales team cannot rise to the challenge.

cannot rise to the challenge.

Few should doubt that they have not yet reached their full potential – and provided they can quickly regain self-belief (and ignore negative sounds off stage), normal service should soon be resumed.

should soon be resumed.

Meanwhile, Gatland has kept faith with the bulk of his team which shows only one change, with scrum half Mike Phillips moving to the bench to make way for Rhys Webb. George North moves into the problem centre slot, with unlucky James Hook again keeping the replacement's seat warm.

replacement's seat warm.

WALES (v France)

Leigh Halfpenny; Alex Cuthbert,
George North, Jamie Roberts, Liam
Williams, Rhys Priestland, Rhys Webb;
Gethin Jenkins, Richard Hibbard, Adam
Jones, Luke Charteris, Alun Wyn Jones,
Dan Lydiate, Sam Warburton (capt),
Taulupe Faletau.

Replacements: Ken Owens, Paul James, Rhodri Jones, Jake Ball, Justin Tipuric, Mike Phillips, Dan Biggar, James Hook.